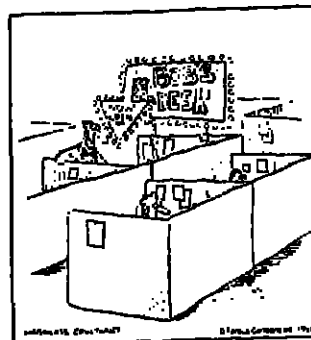


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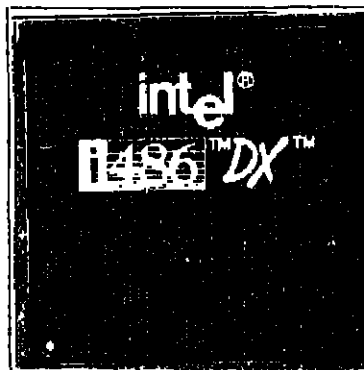
Intel Inc. faces rough times:

Competition pushes "Intel Outside"

INTEL INC. surprised the international computer industry recently by a series of price cuts in its products. Intel is the world's biggest chip supplier and has been so for several years without any serious competition. This move to slash the prices is part of a new strategy to beat the competition, something Intel has not been used to. Their 386 microprocessor, for example, is now selling for \$119 just under the average price of the market. So is Intel being pushed off its throne?

Taking a look at Intel's history, it all started back in 1981 when IBM decided to include Intel's 8086 in its new PC which it expected to only sell some 250,000 of at most, and the rest is history. In 1982 they released the 80286, the 80386 in 1985, the 80386sx in 1988 and the 80486 microprocessor in 1989. Intel has since been suffering from new competition and fluctuation of sales. Some people don't see why Intel's complaining since it makes a net profit of \$700 million! Still, profits are going down and the next ten years could be very difficult for Intel. Intel has been following a num-

ber of strategies to change the situation and have signed several agreements with other chip suppliers and computer companies. A promotional campaign is also underway including an agreement with a number of computer manufacturers who use Intel processors to put a certain stamp that says "Intel Inside" on their advertisements. Some companies didn't agree to this because they claimed that Intel's name may no longer mean quality seeing as many new processors on the mar-



ket can outperform Intel products. Still, the campaign has attracted lots of attention, but has it remains to be seen if it will change the companies situation. Intel basically has five competitors including Mips who seem to be the strongest competitors with the R4000 chip which is being produced according to an agreement which actually included Intel in the first place. Many claim that the future is Mips and Intel is obviously listening. Then, there's AMD who produce 386 and 486 microprocessors and who Intel have filed a copyright lawsuit against, but

can't seem to prove anything since the design of the chips is different. Chips and Technologies are another big competitor who produce the Super 386 microprocessor which is up to 40 per cent faster than Intel's similar chip. Others include the Sparc group originally set up to provide Sun Microsystems workstations with processors and there's the chip producing company set up by the IBM/Apple alliance last year.

Intel is preparing itself for the future and planning to release a chip called Micro 2000 including some 100 million transistors to be released towards the end of the decade and which Intel will be promoting as the microprocessor for the next century.

Regardless of everything, this is all good news to computer users who feel the change with major computer manufacturers like IBM, Compaq and Apple all releasing cheaper versions of their computers such as Apple's Macintosh Classic and Compaq's Prolinea series. As for Intel, things will never be the same, but many a chip manufacturer would kill to be where Intel are today. ■



Olympic Boxing goes digital

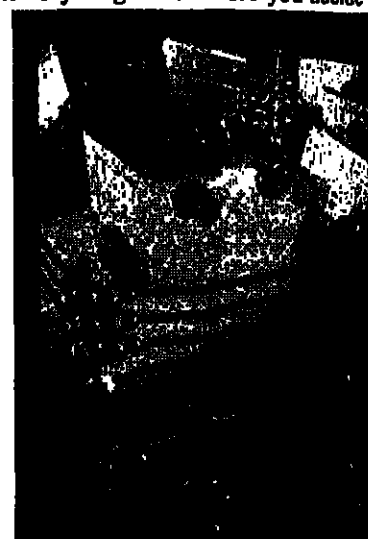
IN KEEPING with the Olympic spirit that is currently prevailing everywhere you can't help but encounter people willing to discuss this important sports event. One of the better conversations I had with a friend included much talk about how technology is penetrating sports activities just like everything else. Before you decide that this is going to be a boring column all about computer uses in the Olympic games, wait a minute and read on.

Now, if you were an athlete performing in front of a group of judges, what would make you feel more secure and what do you think is more fair? Having your score decided by a number of experienced judges or by a computer?

Seriously, consider such a question and think about it. Consider that a computer is a faultless machine and that it should be able to calculate just about anything, but are sports really about calculation. Also consider that many things an athlete does that influences a judge may not influence a computer.

Let's get a little bit more specific and let's talk about boxing. A very violent sport if you ask me, but it's also one of the most controversial sports when it comes to criteria of scoring. In other words, what one judge may see as a good point, the other may not see at all. Back in 1988 during the Seoul Olympics, Koreans rioted over a decision against a Korean boxer and claimed that it was unfair. Another scandal happened when American boxer Roy Jones Jr. stole a gold medal by tricking the judges into believing that he was actually making all the right hits when he actually didn't even touch the body of his opponents in some punches! Surely, such incidents would be enough for the International Olympic Committee to consider banning boxing from future games? Well, this is where the saviour computer jumps in. Computers are currently being used in the Barcelona games to determine who won. According to the old system, five judges would simply mark who they thought had won. Now, they push buttons when they think a scoring blow has landed. Three out of the five judges must push the button within a second of each other for the blow to count. So such a system should stop the judges from conspiring against a certain boxer, yet many claim that the system is unfair to "true boxers" since it emphasises on single hard punches at the expense of a quick series of punches which cannot be counted quickly enough. Another criticism is that the new system forces boxers to cl styles and adapt heavy punches with combinations aimed at the head since a judge will most probably see the competitors head move.

So what if it proves to be a failure and boxing fans insist on smashing the computer system and killing it if possible? It should be remembered that the buttons are still controlled by very human judges, so this just marks the beginning of an efficient system of scoring. Am I for it or against it? I really don't know, but if computers can do the job properly without causing a big problems amongst people why not. Boxing and other sports have been around for a much longer time than computers and, after all, they're just machines! Let's hope fans keep this in mind before swearing at technology. ■



The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 13 — 19 AUGUST 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 21

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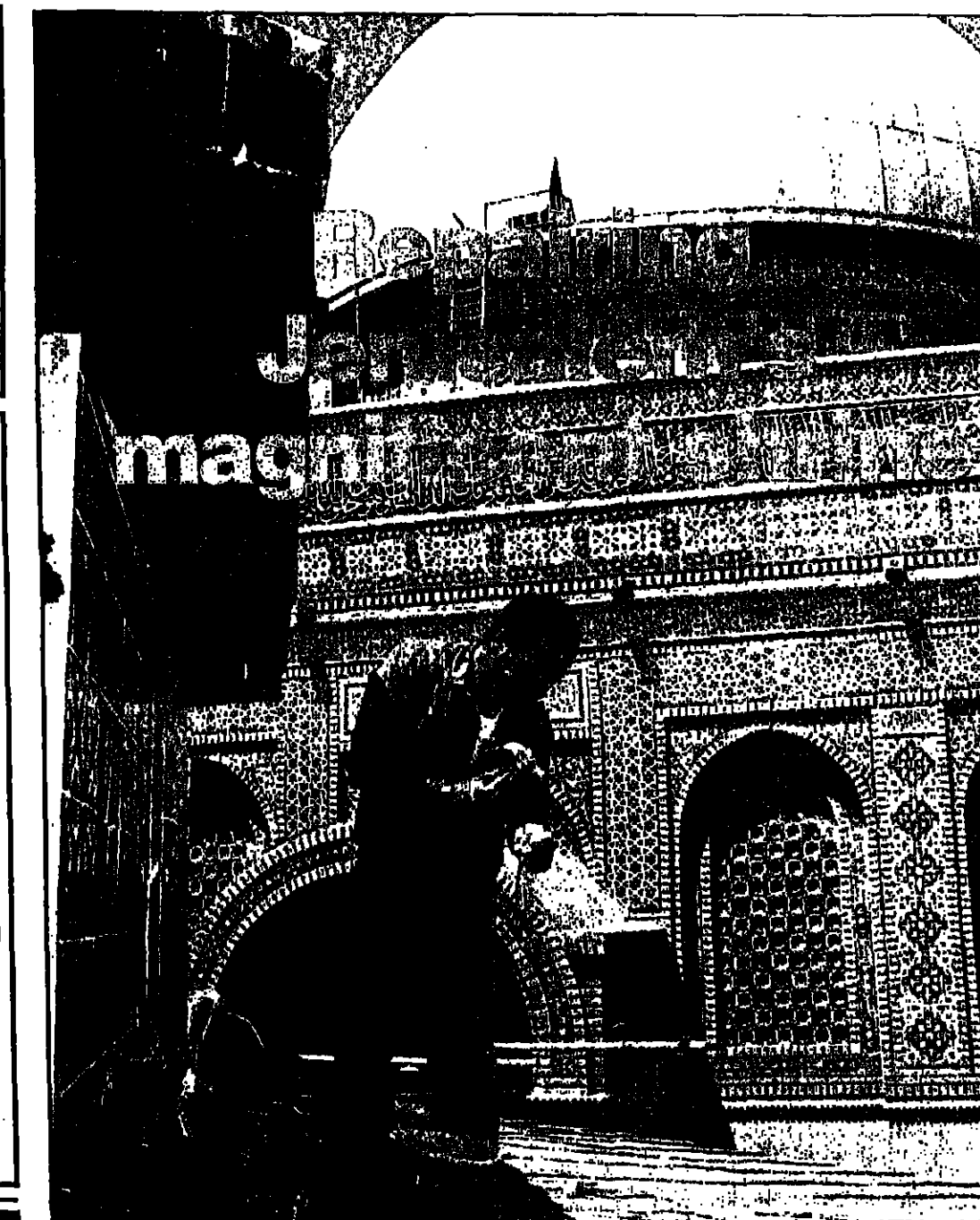
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The WorldPaper
The NGO Revolution



Amman Computer Expo. '92

THE AMMAN Computer Expo., organized by the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), has become an annual computer activity which Jordanian computer users await in which the Jordanian computer sector shows of its latest in hardware and software. The good news is that the Amman Computer Expo. '92 is coming soon and is scheduled to be held between 18 and 21 October this year. Last

year's expo was a success, it included over twenty computer



companies and attracted a considerable number of people. Almost double the number of companies have announced their participation this year. The JCS promise that it's going to be well organized and will include several surprises for the public.

IBM, Siemens and Toshiba form alliance to develop chips

IBM, THE world's largest computer firm, announced a major alliance with Siemens, the biggest in Europe, and Toshiba, a major diversified company in Japan to develop the next generation of computer memory chips.

The companies said that they will cooperate in the development of 256-megabit chips that will have 16 times more capacity than the chips commonly in use today. One of the new chips is

expected to hold the equivalent of 25,000 pages double-sided text and will most likely be used in future generations of small, powerful personal computers and workstations.

The companies expect to spend over \$1 billion developing new technology and building prototype chips.

Teams from the three companies will start working immediately

at IBM's advanced semiconductor technology for the project which will eventually involve over 200 researchers and start working at Siemens and Toshiba plants.

This falls into IBM's strategic alliances with global rivals in an effort to stay at the forefront of the world of computer developments. ■



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AL GHAD AL IKHTIBADI

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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

In one of his most eloquent speeches since the Gulf Crises, His Majesty King Hussein said that the Arabs are today facing two options: A New Arab Order based on freedom, justice, democracy and tolerance; or another dependent on others who seek to penetrate the Arab world and plunder its resources.

Speaking before senior army officers at a graduation ceremony at the Royal War Academy on Monday, King Hussein said the Arab Order did not collapse one year ago, but was first tumbled when the Great Arab Revolt was forsaken just as the warriors at Malsoun and the defenders at the walls of Jerusalem were abandoned. The King, speaking one day before Jordan marked the 40th anniversary of his accession to the Throne, pointed to the fragmentation of the Arab order with the failure of the Arab League.

The King said Jordan had made its choice by committing itself to international legitimacy and to a just and comprehensive peace that will lead this region out of its bloody chaos and give Palestinians their historical rights on their own land.

King Hussein said that Jordan was surrounded by those with ill will, who wanted to starve Jordanian children just like the children of Iraq and Somalia. The King said Jordan will continue to be the unbending defender of the Umma's interests and will sustain all pressures without compromising its principles. He called on the Arabs to support freedom and human rights and reject all forms of bigotry and fanaticism, despotism and the manipulation of wealth.

Continued on page 4

A rift in the House over Rifai

The ripples of the Jaffi-Azraq corruption case were felt by the whole country this week when angry demonstrators protested the indictment of former public works minister Mr. Abdullah Hawamdeh by the Lower House of Parliament last week and demanded that all members of former prime minister Zaid Rifai's cabinet be put on trial.

In an historic session last week, the House indicted Mr. Hawamdeh, but failed to muster the necessary two-third majority to indict Mr. Zaid Rifai and a member of his cabinet, former minister of finance Mr. Hanna Odeh. (See Jordan Week 6 July).

Hundreds of Mr. Hawamdeh's supporters from his hometown of Tafleeh marched through the streets of their southern city on Wednesday last week to protest the verdict and demanded the reversal of the indictment.

They raised banners accusing deputies of being enemies of Tafleeh and called on government to dissolve what they described as the "unfair" Parliament.

The demonstrators, who said they were joined by people from

Tafleeh who reside in Amman and Zorqa, were prevented by police from marching towards the Royal Palace. They were received however, by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Mr. Ahmed Al Lawzi, who called on them to exercise self restraint and rely on dialogue in expressing their concerns.

The attack on Parliament by Tafleeh residents heightened an already tense atmosphere inside the Lower House and shocked many deputies, including Tafleeh deputy Mr. Rihad Khalafat who submitted his resignation in protest over Parliament's handling of the corruption case. Mr. Khalafat's resignation over the now infamous case was compounded by a decision by 42 deputies to sue Mr. Rifai for libel.

In Monday's session, angry deputies voted for a decision to take Mr. Rifai to court because of what he said in a press statement published last week after he and Mr. Odeh narrowly escaped an indictment.

Without naming Ad-Dustour, Mr. Massarueh wrote that the use of the pretext of "preserving national unity" to justify closing the door on corruption cases is nonsensical. He added that Jordanians are not divided between those who favor corruption and those who don't. Mr. Massarueh said that open dialogue in a democracy does not threaten Jordan or national unity.

Leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Mr. Naif Hawamdeh announced that Washington has informed Palestinian negotiators of its final objection to the holding of legislative elections in the areas. He quoted Mr. Baker as telling head of the Palestinian team, Dr. Halder Abdel Shafi, that "legislative elections take place in a state and that you are not a state."

PLO Chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat also criticized Israel's interpretation of the five-year interim self-government. He accused Israel of forcing its own concepts of occupation, saying the interim period should be short and temporary to be followed by a comprehensive solution. Arafat reiterated PLO's demand that the interim period begins with political elections (to elect a 180-member council) that will ensure Palestinian control over land and water under international supervision and protection.

In a related event, Mr. Arafat welcomed Israel's intentions to lift a ban on contacts with the

ment vote.

The 42 deputies accused Mr. Rifai of undermining the integrity of the legal system by denying that there was ever a legal case and by attacking members of the House Investigation Committee.

The deputies reminded Mr. Rifai that although they failed to obtain the necessary two-third majority to indict him, 48 out of 71 deputies voted for the indictment, while only 17 voted against and six abstained.

They rejected Mr. Rifai's insinuations regarding the integrity of elected deputies reaffirming that the people elect only the honorable to represent them.

Deputy Lath Shbeilat, head of the House Investigations Committee, responded to Rifai's statement in a letter that was published in the local press. The independent Islamist deputy for Amman said Mr. Rifai has no reason to celebrate the results of indictment voting since 67 percent of the deputies voted against him.

Mr. Shbeilat accused Mr. Rifai of attempting to divide the House into "honorable" and "non-honorable" deputies according to the way deputies had voted. Arab newspaper editors again found themselves parties to an ensuing battle between supporters of Mr. Rifai, deputies and ordinary citizens all of whom demanded to publish opinion articles on the events of the past two weeks.

One paper, Ad-Dustour, opted to stop publication of any articles related to the Rifai-Odeh-Hawamdeh case "to preserve national unity."

Its decision was criticized by Al Rai columnist Mr. Tariq Massarueh, who wrote on Tuesday that if newspapers turned their backs to what goes on in the street, then the underground leaflets of 1988 would reappear.

Without naming Ad-Dustour, Mr. Massarueh wrote that the use of the pretext of "preserving national unity" to justify closing the door on corruption cases is nonsensical. He added that Jordanians are not divided between those who favor corruption and those who don't. Mr. Massarueh said that open dialogue in a democracy does not threaten Jordan or national unity.

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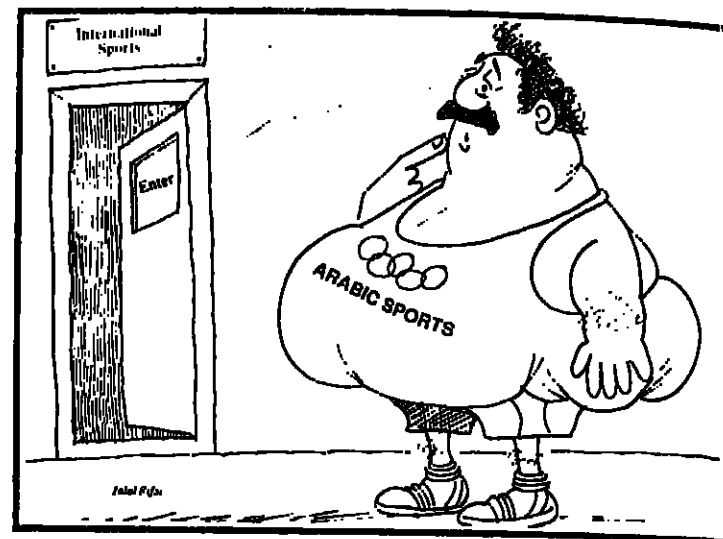
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sals on the set up of the self-government administrative authority and that "the Palestinians have shown new flexibility" regarding the latest proposals.

The Jerusalem Arabic daily Al Quds said that Israeli plan includes the following points:

● The election of a 25-member administrative council.

● The council will be handed responsibility by the Israeli side in all areas except security and foreign affairs.

● Transfer of authority shall be concluded directly without the supervision or mediation of a third party.

● The set up of a 2000-man Palestinian police force armed with light weapons.

● The exclusion of Jewish settlements from the authority of the self-government.

The paper also said that Israel will submit a timetable for negotiations to begin on a final settlement in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Egyptian officials said they expected the US administration to play a vital role in the Washington talks on all fronts. They told Al Quds that they expected US Secretary of State James Baker to send a special envoy to the region before the convening of the Washington talks to discuss new American proposals on Palestinian self-government.

Palestinian officials announced that they have requested that Israel takes immediate measures in the occupied Arab territories including the cancellation of an Israeli expulsion orders of 2000 Palestinians.

But while Palestinian negotiators prepare to engage their Israeli counterparts in one of the most sensitive rounds of negotiations so far, some PLO factions continued to make their objections clear to its possible outcome.

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PLO and called on Israel to negotiate directly with the Palestinian organization. Israel had announced that it was planning to amend a 1986 law which banned contacts with the PLO.

Mr. Faisal Hussein was quoted by the Israeli daily Ha'aretz as saying that the establishment of a future Palestinian state will be followed within 10 years by confederation among Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

In an interview with Ha'aretz Mr. Hussein said that he was willing to accept the Alon Hussein plan, which calls for keeping a belt of Israeli settlements along the River Jordan for security reasons after Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank for security reasons.

Member of the Executive Committee of the PLO Mr. Abu Mazen commented on Hussein's statements by saying that Palestinians are ready to discuss Israel's security claims so long as they are not connected to settlements.

Meanwhile, an unnamed Jordanian official reiterated to Al Quds Al Dawl in London Jordan's rejection of the so-called Jordan Option and said Jordan will not sign agreements related to the proposed self-government interim administration in spite of Israeli encouragements to Jordan to accept a more involved role.

On the other hand, coordination between officials of the Public Security Directorate and a five-man Palestinian team continued in Amman this week with the aim of drawing plans on the formation of a proposed Palestinian police force.

Palestinian sources have told Reuters news agency that they aim to train 20,000 Palestinians on police duties for a three-month period in Jordan.

The Palestinian police force will maintain local peace in the areas that Israel will vacate after reaching an agreement with the Palestinians on self-government.

The Palestinians are also discussing with Jordan steps to transfer authority of issuing birth, death and academic certificates from Jordan to the new administrative council.

Israel maintains that the Palestinian force should be run by Jordanian officers, but the PLO does not accept that. Israel is insisting that the areas under self-rule be demilitarized, but will allow policemen to carry light weapons. It also insists that it has the final say on the candidates, most of whom are said to be members of Fatah movement.

The work was carried out by a Saudi contractor under the direction of an Egyptian technical team that was dispatched to Jerusalem. This team was backed by an inter-disciplinary advisory committee in Cairo.

The technical team was supposed to bring its problems to the inter-disciplinary committee, says Awad, who is highly critical of the team's efforts.

They started getting answers

and then started forgetting about them. They had no experience with restoration." In one instance, the committee in Cairo approved the removal of a Crusader grille from around the Foundation Stone because it was impeding restoration work, but stipulated that the grille be restored afterwards. It never was. The technical team, apparently on its own, lowered the pitched roof inside Al Aksa on the grounds that it was obscuring the mosque's dome, a move that Awad regards as absurd.

Awad, a Palestinian from Tulkarm, graduated from Ein Shams University in Cairo with a degree in architecture, and returned home to look for a job. He was hired in 1972 by the Wakf authorities in Amman as resident architect.

The Egyptians had even more fanciful intentions, including dismantling the Dome of the Chain — a small structure at the precise center of the Haram area adjacent to the Dome of the Rock — and restoring it elsewhere, on the grounds that it was blocking the view of the shrine.

The Egyptian technical team was in Jerusalem when the 1967 war broke out and remained there for two months before returning home. Its major work, however, had already been completed in 1964 — the replacement of the dome on the Dome of the Rock.

That effort, according to Awad, was badly bungled. The choice of anodized aluminium instead of the traditional lead, he says, reflected an Egyptian weakness for the new-fangled.

Work begins on Dome of the Rock Repairing Jerusalem's magnificent Muslim shrine

INITIAL WORK has already begun on Jerusalem's most distinctive architectural feature — the gold-colored dome of the Dome of the Rock mosque, which is to be replaced with a dome gilded with real gold, 24-carat bright.

The restoration work, funded by Jordanian public and private donations, comes after years of tedious struggle by Jordanian authorities to secure the necessary funds for the project.

The existing dome, assumed by visitors to be as ancient as the 1200-year-old structure itself, is in fact less than 30 years old. For most of its existence, the Islamic shrine was capped in dark lead. In a revolutionary facelift, that dome was replaced in 1964 by one of anodized aluminium with a golden color.

The aluminium is now to be replaced with a gilded brass dome. Close to 100 kilograms of pure gold — valued at about \$1.5 million — will be applied as a thin outer coating to the brass sheets by an electrolysis process.

As striking in appearance as the existing dome is — evoking a spiritual resonance that is universal — it has failed to do what roofing is primarily intended to do: keep out the rain.

"It was leaking from the time it was built," says Issam Awad, architect in charge of the current restoration project.

When constructed in the seventh century, the Dome of the Rock was covered by a gilded copper roof, according to ancient accounts. Within a century, a dark lead dome was substituted, presumably for better weathering.

For more than a millennium the dome has been the feature that first caught the traveller's eye as he approached Jerusalem.

The dome appeared to encompass the mystery of the walled city, which it did. Directly below the dome, inside the magnificent structure, was the Foundation Stone on which Prophet Mohammed had embarked on his night ride to heaven (Isra' wal Mi'raj).

The heavy weight of the lead plates and the steep angle of the dome made for slippage and over the centuries the plates were replaced periodically. Reports by British antiquities authorities from early in the Mandate period speak of leakage through the dome during the winter rains and call for minor restoration. Such reports were repeated in the ensuing decades by various agencies with increasing urgency.

In 1954, Jordan established the Al Aksa and Dome of the Rock Restoration Committee. Its object was to oversee repairs on the Al Haram Al Sharif (Noble Sanctuary). Some JD 600,000 were contributed to the project by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and other countries.

The work was carried out by a Saudi contractor under the direction of an Egyptian technical team that was dispatched to Jerusalem. This team was backed by an inter-disciplinary advisory committee in Cairo.

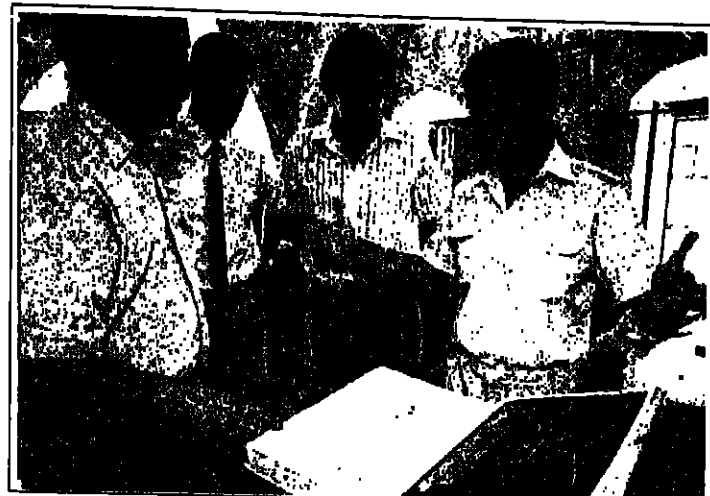
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Issam Awad (left), architect in charge of the restoration project, discusses a point with Mivan's representatives

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That effort, according to Awad, was badly bungled. The choice of anodized aluminium instead of the traditional lead, he says, reflected an Egyptian weakness for the new-fangled.

"Egyptians always like new things. They said that anodized aluminium was the latest material, that it was being used in planes and rockets." Experts had previously recommended that the lead be replaced with copper, a reliable material widely used for domes in Europe. Whatever their short coming might have been, however, it was the Egyptians who painted Jerusalem's centerpiece gold.

The failure of the aluminium sheets as weathering material stemmed in part from the way they were installed. Instead of overlapping, the sheets were laid alongside each other, leaving the joints to be covered by aluminium strips. The new roof began to leak the very first winter after it was installed.

Maintenance men have been kept busy in the years since cur-

rying about the interior of the shrine — one of the world's architectural gems — to place buckets so that the water does not ruin the carpets. The problem was particularly acute on the ambulatory roof covering the space between the dome and the side walls of the structure.

"The water was penetrating here on a major scale," notes Awad. The leakage problem was more than an inconvenience; it endangered seventh-century mosaics and other priceless decorative elements.

In an attempt to deal with the problem, the Egyptians poured concrete over the aluminium roofing. This helped, but only partially.

"I thought that because of the new dome we wouldn't have to worry about leakage in the Dome of the Rock for 40 or 50 years." When he found water penetrating the dome his first winter on the job, he gained access through a small trapdoor to the innards of the ambulatory roof.

"I found a complete mess. Because aluminium expands when it is hot, it had eroded the concrete and made it easier for water to penetrate." Insulating material slowed the flow, but this was only a stopgap.

"It was embarrassing to raise the problem in Amman, especially when you know that JD 600,000 had just been invested. You can't say, 'I need the same amount to repair what has just been done.'"

An even greater threat than rain was snow, sparse as it usually is in Jerusalem. Because the Egyptians had made their stress calculations before concrete was poured on the roof, there was real danger that any extra weight might cause the roof to collapse. Maintenance men were given standing instructions to clear snow from the roof before it could accumulate. During last winter, this had to be done three times. A reporter viewing the interior of the ambulatory roof last week found the aluminium bowed by the weight of the concrete.

Awad pressed for repairs but funds were not available. Salvation finally came from an unexpected quarter. The Gulf War and the ensuing tensions between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, led to King Fahd's ostentatious offer to pay for repairs to the shrine. This was a deliberate attempt to undermine Jordan's traditional role as

custodian of the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

His Majesty King Hussein did not lag far behind with his counter-offer to pay for the repairs himself by selling one of his properties in London to raise his contribution of \$8.25 million. Additional moneys available to the restoration committee in Amman brought the total to \$10 million.

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The dome in question is an outer dome. The shrine's elaborately decorated interior dome, seen from the floor of the building itself, will remain intact. The new brass on the outer dome will be composed of 90 per cent copper and 10 per cent zinc.

The ambulatory roof is also to be replaced, but here the alumin-

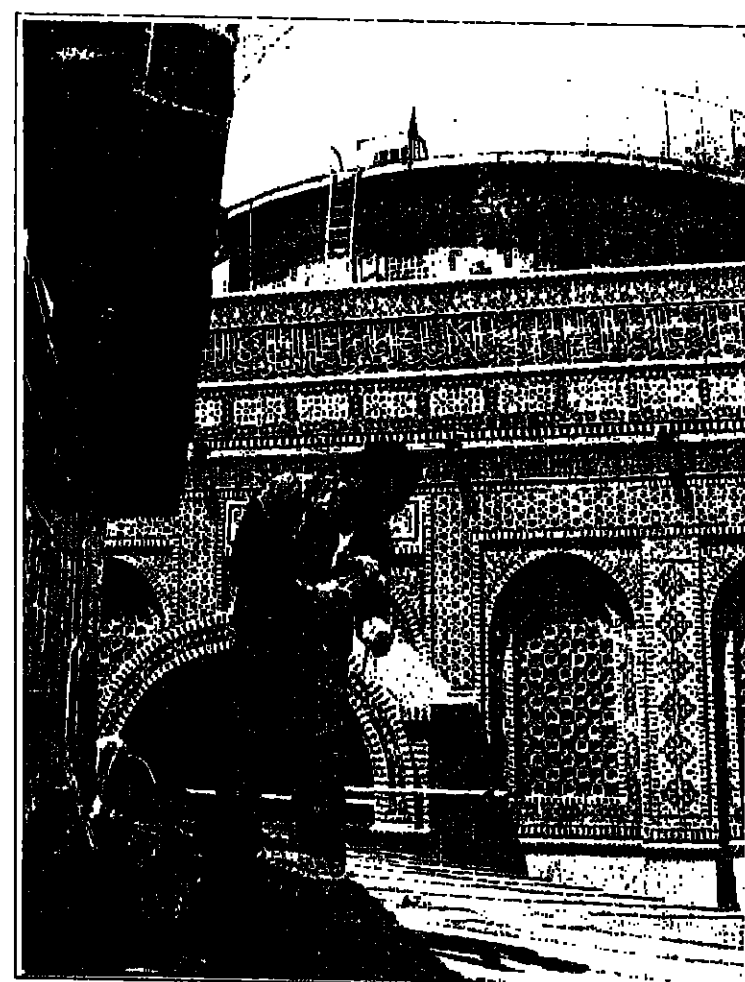
ium will give way to lead. In a reflection of the times, a new fire-alarm system sensitive to smoke as well as heat is also to be installed. Awad notes that tear-gas canisters such as those used by Israeli police against Palestinians in the Haram Sharif two years ago can touch off a fire. Replacement of the dome will remove a bullet hole placed their several years ago by an American immigrant soldier who sprayed gunfire on the mosque — killing one person.

The replacement of the aluminium dome with a lead one had been considered in Amman. This was what had been done at Al Aksa Mosque a few years ago, when its silver colored aluminium dome was replaced by lead.

Awad, who won the Aga Khan award in Morocco in 1986 for his restoration efforts on Al Aksa, was among those who forcefully opposed the use the lead on the Dome of the Rock.

While the tradition of a golden dome may be less than 30 years old, it has become such an integral part of Jerusalem's landscape, he argued, that any other color would be inconceivable. Besides, says Awad, the use of gold is a highly visible affirmation of the Islamic presence in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Post & press reports



A worker prepares to begin restoration work on Dome of the Rock, alongside the Dome of the Rock

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While the tradition of a golden dome may be less than 30

First conference on Arab scientists and technologies abroad convenes next week

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

ARAB SCIENTISTS at home and abroad will meet in Jordan next week in the first Congress of Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad.

The two-day congress, which will convene on 17 August, will tackle three major issues:

1. Obstacles facing the attainment of satisfactory status of science, technology, higher education and scientific research and development in the Arab world.

2. Presentation of the scientific work of the Arab scientists living abroad on supercomputers, raw materials, transportation, biotechnology, microelectronics, climate changes, ecology application and other topics.

3. Capabilities as well as limitations of Arab scientists abroad and at home and means of strengthening their cooperation.

Munir H. Nayefeh, a professor at the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois, who helped organize the congress, said that the meeting will consti-

tute a first step towards developing constructive cooperation and coordination among Arab scientists living abroad and their colleagues in the Arab world.

He said the gathering will offer an opportunity for the transfer of know-how and exchange of professional experiences.

"We would like to build the program with coherent methodology for cooperation which will give beneficial clues for transferring science and technology to the Arab region," Prof. Nayefeh told *The Star* in an interview.

He said participants will discuss current educational systems in the region and ways of promoting science and technology in higher education schools.

The congress will also aim at establishing lecture programs, allocating fellowships for students and faculties, and raising funds to finance these objectives.

Speakers at the congress will discuss industrial relationships in the Arab world, nuclear technology application, water resources, the environment and other issues of concern to the region.

The congress, financed by international, Arab and Jordanian funds, was the outcome of a private initiative from different Arab countries as well as the UNESCO.

Jordan was chosen to host the congress "because of its appropriate geographical location and excellent system of communica-



Munir H. Nayefeh

tion," said Prof. Nayefeh.

He said that Jordan is an Arab country that gives tremendous support to the development of science technology.

At the end of the congress, the participants will lay the foundation of a proposed scientists and technologists abroad association.

BRIEFS

By Ahmad Shaker

■ Palestinian work groups meeting in Amman this week have concluded a draft agreement on the framework of the proposed interim self government for the Occupied Territories. Four PLO officials participated in the work groups including Dr Nabil Sha'ath and Akram Hanih, and were joined by seven members of the Palestinian negotiating team including Dr Sa'eb Ureikat, Dr Nabil Qassis, Dr Suad Al Ameri and Dr Mamdouh Al Iker. Ten projects associated with the interim period were discussed and a final draft was sent for approval to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Sources told *Ad-Dustour* that a PLO meeting will take place in Amman on 18 August to add the final touches to the Palestinian proposal, which will be presented to the Israelis in Washington on 24 August.

■ Central Bank (CB) sources have confirmed press reports that the government had authorized a new letter of intent to the IMF in June. According to the letter Jordan requested a number of "technical adjustments" to credit ceilings and IMF assistance in the fiscal area. The letter also reported recent measures taken by CB to restrain credit expansion in the private sector and others to liberalize the exchange system.

■ A French company, BRGM, is working on a feasibility study for utilizing copper mines in Wadi Araba. Another French company has concluded studies on using subterranean thermal energy to heat green houses in farms south of Queen Alla International Airport.

Jordan Week

Continued from page 2

The King said that although Jordan has no oil, it has built an intact society, founded a pioneering democratic experiment, and prepared the great Arab Army.

The King announced the establishment of Al al-Bait University for Arts and Science as his gift to the Arabs.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair the university's constituent assembly.

By Glenn Plaskin
Special to The Star

GRUNTING, GROANING, moon dancing the night away recently in Munich, hyperkinetic Michael Jackson was, according to eye witnesses, dripping wet toward the end of his three-hour marathon concert, deafened by the screams of 70,000 German fans. Vanishing backstage to quick-change from a black cat suit with a gold codpiece to a white space suit, the Barnum & Bailey of Pop prepared to unleash the evening's grand finale.

Lowering onto his head a Plexiglas helmet, The Thriller stepped behind a giant box on the stage marked "Danger," strapped a jet pack onto his back and, with an impish grin, blasted 200 feet into the air (some say it was a stunt double), flying above Munich's Olympic Stadium like his storybook idol, Peter Pan. The crowd gaped in wonderment.

"Ladies and gentlemen," an announcer deadpanned, "Michael Jackson has just left the stadium."

Twenty minutes later, according to an emissary authorized to sit with the Gloved One, the 33-year-old legend sat benignly in his hotel suite, serene as Buddha, sipping a Pepsi, bare-handedly thumbing through an illustrated guide to Munich — just one stop on his current 37-city European tour promoting the multi-platinum "Dangerous."

Jackson's dream of healing the world through song and dance surfaces in the just-published "Dancing the Dream," a fanciful collection of poems, reflections and photographs that champions kids, endangered species, the homeless, AIDS victims and planet Earth, edited by Doubleday's ace, Jacqueline Onassis, who had persuaded Jackson to write his 1988 best-selling autobiography, "Moonwalk."

Although some critics have poked fun at the singer's effusive idealism, Jackson wisely writes in the essay "On Children of the World": "The chaos, despair and senseless destruction we see are a result of the alienation people feel from each other.... This alienation has its roots in an emotionally deprived childhood.... Children have had their childhood stolen from them."

Jackson is no exception. "We (The Jackson 5) always rehearsed," Jackson recalled in "Moonwalk." "The majority of our time was spent working. If you messed up, you got hit, sometimes with a belt, sometimes with a switch. My father was real strict."

No kidding. Joe Jackson reportedly beat his nine children until they were bloody, threatened them with guns and sexually molested two daughters — all revealed in La Toya Jackson's 1991 polemic, "La Toya: Growing Up in the Jackson Family."

Little wonder that a howling mad Jackson begins his epic album "Dangerous" with the crash of broken glass. And take notice of last November's controversial 11-minute, \$4 million "Black or White" video, which featured the star smashing car windows and shop windows with a baseball bat, croch-grabbing, ripping off his shirt and caressing his chest.

His own hardest act to follow, Jackson's gargantuan record sales have been falling since "Thriller" sold 40 million copies worldwide in 1982. The 1987 "Bad" album was a 22 million seller, and "Dangerous" is stalled at 13 million.

Does Jackson worry about composing hit songs? "I do not."

feel pressure when I produce a song," insists the crafty businessman, who purchased the Beatles catalogue for \$47.6 million in 1985, who landed \$15 million from Pepsi in 1986 for two commercials, and who last year signed a \$1 billion multimedia deal with Sony.

"We conservatively estimate Jackson to be worth over \$200 million, and every year for five years he has earned \$60 million pre-tax, pre-expense," says *Forbes* magazine editor Peter Nukem.

"He could be worth another \$50 million easily, but he blows a lot of money."

Indeed, ensconced in the Nevada Valley Ranch — his \$35 million, 2,700-acre estate in Santa Ynez, Calif., Jackson, according to former ranch manager Mark Quinday, spends \$300,000 a year on flower bulbs, \$27,000 a month on long-distance phone calls and \$28.50 an hour for someone to change the Pampers of the chimps, who have their own room. Not to mention 30 full-time gardeners and 40 people in security.

Wary of intruders and no longer speaking to his father — Jackson, according to a recent report, provides his own best security, totting a personal arsenal of 10 firearms, including an Uzi-style weapon he has called his "ultimate protector."

Within this cloister, says Quinday, the Disneyland-aholic romps on a ferris wheel, an octopus ride, a merry-go-round; he watches cartoons around the clock in a 100-seat movie theater.

Determined to make his face as perfect as his environment, Jackson has opted for six nose surgeries — four primary rhinoplasties and two touch-ups to define the tip, heighten the bridge and narrow the nostrils — plus the Kirk Douglas cleft cut into his chin. He also appeared to have lightened his skin with either bleaching agents or makeup.

In an essay titled "Once We Were There," Jackson poignantly writes, "That lonely child still clutching his toy, has made his peace.... The child has grown to weave his magic, left behind his life of sorrow, once so tragic.... One wishes it so."

Between performances on his whirlwind European tour, Michael Jackson agreed to this rare interview with Glenn Plaskin. An emissary was sent to hand-deliver the questions to Jackson in German after his Munich concert, where upon he dictated his answers, which were then transmitted to his literary agent in Washington, D.C. The answers were typed and faxed to Plaskin for publication.

Q: I like that you care, drawing attention to your new book "Dancing the Dream" to "a child crying in Ethiopia, a sea gull struggling pathetically in an oil spill, a teenage soldier trembling with terror...." Do you think we've become numb to all this?

A: "No, I don't think we have become numb to these tragedies. We are seeing a world-wide re-

Michael Jackson

Megastar Dancing with cult fame



Jackson: Fame can be imprisoning

surge and restoration of basic human values and concern for the sacredness of all life on our planet."

Q: Your book is filled with an old soul's wisdom about life. Do you think of yourself as a philosopher?

A: "I don't think of myself as a philosopher. I think I have a purpose, as does everyone else on Earth. To find that purpose and to live to express it is to ignite the spark of divinity within us."

Q: Did all the poems and essays in the book come from a daily journal?

A: I don't keep a journal. Ideas gestate and incubate in my mind.

Q: You always say dreaming is so important. Have you realized all your dreams?

A: "No, I haven't. Without dreams there is no creativity. The creative urge in us comes from discontent — a divine discontent that seeks to change, to transform, to fill the world with more magic. My priority in life is to make a difference, to tread unfamiliar, uncharted territory and to leave some trails behind."

Q: Which is...?

A: "Love. It is exhilarating. It is magic."

Q: I bet you could have been a great ballet dancer. Your mother once said you could im-

Q: What do you like about kids and how do they revive you when you feel burdened?

A: "Children are innocent and they are non-judgmental. They revive me, because they help me find my own inner child, without whom I would be lost. From children we can learn to love, to forgive, to create anew in everything and to heal the world."

Q: You often speak of God and spirituality. Do you consider yourself a religious person today?

A: "I don't consider myself religious in the sense of subscribing to a particular dogma. I would consider myself spiritual — in that I believe there is a domain of awareness in which we can experience our universality. I read all kinds of religious literature, because I believe there is truth in all of them."

Q: In your book's essay "Trust," you write: "We think separating ourselves from others will protect us, but that doesn't work. It leaves us feeling alone and unloved." Do you feel imprisoned by your fame?

A: "Yes. Fame can be imprisoning. But the best part of being Michael Jackson is that I know I can interact with millions of people; and in that interaction we exchange something."

Q: In the meantime, when you're composing songs for your next album, do the words come first or the music?

A: "I first hear the music and feel the dance, and then the words come spontaneously."

Q: Having hosted Elizabeth Taylor's wedding last October, do you dream that one day you might have a wedding of your own?

A: "My life is the present. And the excitement of life is to step into the unknown ever morning. I look forward to the future — whatever it brings."

itate almost any dance move by the time you were 5. When you're dancing onstage, how does it feel and how hard do you work at it?

A: "I dance to express my bliss. I do not strain at practice when I'm dancing. I just feel that the dance is dancing itself through me. I'm an instrument for the expression of ecstasy."

Q: Give us a few secrets: What do you eat, how do you exercise?

A: "My life is not constrained by special diets or exercise routines. I have fun with my friends or by myself. I like to see movies, read books, dance and sometimes do nothing."

Q: You write so much about animals. What can we all learn from them?

A: "Animals do not kill out of cruelty, greed or jealousy. And most do not kill their own kind. We are the only animals that plunder and destroy the Earth! But we are learning, and it is not too late."

Q: Speaking of animals, after the sexy, violent "panther" section of "Black or White" created so much controversy, amateur psychologists speculated that you were letting off tremendous feelings of anger about...

A: "Anger and rage are the prelude to a shift in consciousness. Unless we feel rage at some of the inequities and injustices of our society, there is no hope for transformation."

Q: Your videos are state-of-the-art, like a mini-motion picture. Would you like to make features-length films?

A: "I'm going to produce and direct many feature films; movies that bring out the magic of life — that entertain but also make people think."

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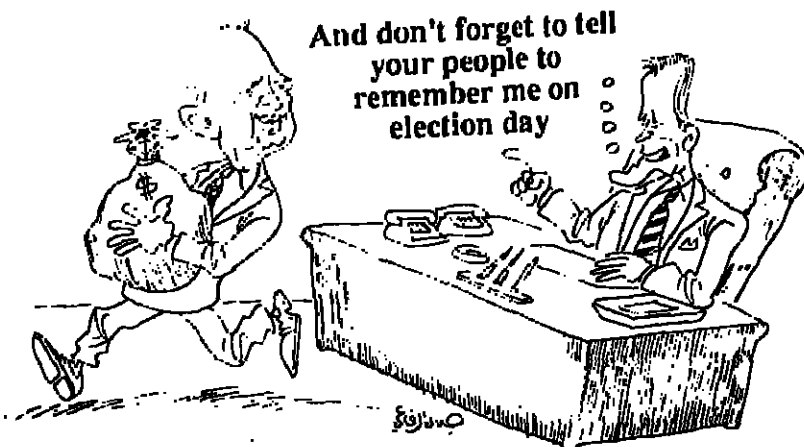
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Jalal Rifa'Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

40 years of nation building

JORDAN THIS week celebrated 40 years of the reign of His Majesty King Hussein by paying tribute to the King's wise and courageous leadership. King Hussein has become a household name all over the world. He is known for his charisma, honesty, integrity, and dedication to his people and their causes. Moreover, King Hussein symbolizes all that makes an Arab proud of his history, culture and origin.

For Jordanians, King Hussein is the builder of modern Jordan. Without his unrelenting efforts throughout the years, this small and poor country would not have stood up and raced towards progress. From the bustling cities to the remote hamlets, Jordanians today have access to schools, health centers, social services, communication facilities among others. Jordan has made long strides in developing its industrial, agricultural and services sectors.

When crisis overwhelmed the region, Jordan was able to override the difficulties by relying on its own resources — human and other.

During the last four decades Jordan grew from an impoverished country lacking in natural resources and surrounded by vicious enemies, into a modern state that is proud of its achievements and of its ability to deal with today's world without fear or embarrassment.

It was the young monarch, who with his foresight, saw that the future of his Kingdom lies in an educated and responsible citizenry. And so it was.

Today we look back and remember the times when a dear part of this Kingdom was severed and when this country became the only safe haven for those fleeing for their lives from persecution. We remember the tough internal challenges and how national unity survived the conspiracies. We also remember the achievements and the times when Jordan stood by its principles in spite of the heavy price it was made to pay. Our people derived their courage from their King and did not waver from their duty when the moment of truth arrived.

During the last 40 years King Hussein was able to create institutions which endured the hard times, and they were many. Today, these institutions are undergoing tremendous changes as we live through one of the most exciting periods of our lives; that of democratic rule. In his speech few days ago, the King assured us all that democracy is here to stay and that Jordanians have made their choice of respecting the rights of the individual and living their lives on the basis of freedom and social justice.

Jordan remains committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and in spite of the long march and the treacheries it has faced during the last four decades, it remains a pioneer for all Arabs to follow.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the King's accession to The Throne, we also celebrate a blessed phase in the life of this young nation. We look forward to more fruitful years under His Majesty and we hope that Jordanians will always put before them the noble goals he had set for his people. These goals have been our guide since the first spark of the Great Arab Revolt, and today, as we seek to reconcile the Arabs and unify their goals, we are motivated by the same principles.

Somalia's children die quietly

By Julian Ozanne

IN THE hot and dusty streets of one of Somalia's war shattered towns, skeletal children close to death feed on grass, roots and the boiled skins and bones of camels.

Some of the most appalling suffering in Somalia's war-fuelled famine, where 4.5 million people are in need of food aid, is unfolding in isolated places such as Bardere — a rubble strewn town on the Juba river.

It is towns such as this which must receive supplies by air if a massive disaster is to be averted. Two weeks ago, the United Nations Security Council sanctioned an airlift, but so far it has not taken place.

Like many towns across Somalia, Bardere, 400 km west of Mogadishu, the capital, has been almost completely looted and destroyed by marauding soldiers who ripped roofs, doors and windows off the houses and left the people to starve.

Hundreds of people, mostly children under five years old, are dying in Bardere, far from the gaze of the world's media or the reach of aid agencies. With no deliveries of emergency drugs or supplementary and intensive feeding materials the famine tragedy in Bardere is mostly a hidden one.

There are no feeding centers yet and therefore no mass concentration of the hungry and the dying. Instead children are dying off in the bombed out and pillaged houses of the town and are buried quietly in shallow graves.

Aid workers estimate that 80 per cent of Bardere's children under five years old are severely malnourished and that anywhere between 15 and 30 people, mostly children, are dying in the town every day.

If their figures are correct, that would give Bardere one of the highest rates of death by starvation per population in the entire country.

Human skeletons not yet buried mix with the bones and carcasses of donkeys and cows in the dusty streets of the town.

Outside Bardere itself a further 25,000 to 35,000 people are in an even worse condition, close to death after dissolute bands of gunmen looted their livestock and left them without any food or sufficient energy to stagger into the town.

"The ones we see walking here are much better off," said Brigitte Doppler of the medical charity *Medecins sans Frontieres*.

"In these situations many more people just don't have the strength to walk and are dying in their homes."

In Bardere market there is some camel meat, cigarettes and salt. But there is no maize or millet or anything to stave off the worst signs of malnutrition. Fresh leafy millet stalks are sold in bundles to the hungry who can still afford to buy food. Most cannot.

Hundreds of emaciated people carrying sacks, and looking desperately for food poured into the unused hospital yesterday as aid workers brought the first drugs in to the town in a twin-engine aircraft.

The starving Somalis were disappointed and angry that Europeans had come to the town again without bringing food.

For the past 20 months, Somalia's civil war has disrupted agriculture and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homesteads.

Many have reached Mogadishu after a long trek, but many more have died along the way.



In recent days, international aid agencies have stepped up their calls for a huge import of aid to Somalia, saying the shattered African nation is a hell on earth of famine and war that claims hundreds of victims every day.

The Save the Children Fund, one of only a handful of aid organizations working in Somalia, said the humanitarian crisis there made the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s look like "small beer," describing it as far worse than the mayhem in former Yugoslavia.

The SCF has highlighted security problems in Somalia as a reason for the wariness of the international community to become involved in relief operations, but the organization said that unless the supplies were increased, food would continue to be a commodity worth fighting for.

"People say there can't be food without security, but there will be no security until there is food," said Mr Don Redding, who witnessed the problems in Somalia at first hand during a trip there last April.

Amnesty International described Somalia as a human rights disaster. It called on Somalis to stop fighting and the rest of the world to help relieve the suffering.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has warned that up to 1.5 million people could die in Somalia over the next few months.

Help may finally be close at hand, with Bardere's first airlift of food expected this week. Unicef, the UN children's agency, is planning to fly in 16 tonnes of food, drugs and shelter material.

In the short run, that is bound to exacerbate the situation, as thousands of people head for the town once they hear food is there.

But in the continuing insecurity of Somalia a major airlift is now the only hope of averting a human catastrophe.

Financial Times

August
1992 / 1

The World Paper

BEYOND GOVERNMENT

The NGO revolution

BY SUSAN GOODWILLIE AND PERDITA HUSTON
in Tecate, Mexico

ALL AROUND THE WORLD, and especially in countries of the South, a new generation is taking the initiative to solve public problems. Thousands of people are organizing independent and freely formed nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), large and small, to promote social and economic change through advocacy, education, delivery of new social services and by challenging official policy and practice in every conceivable sector of human activity.

The process of global consultations leading up to the recent Earth Summit is a powerful testament to the vitality and influence of the NGO community on urgent world issues. Throughout the entire preparatory process of regional and international meetings, NGOs participated in developing the Summit agenda and content. This was a first. At prior UN gatherings, NGOs were invited often at the last minute as an afterthought, and then only in separate, "unofficial" forums. The Global Forum at Rio, attended by thousands of people from NGOs from all corners of the globe, was a dramatic demonstration of the size and strength of the international NGO movement.

NGOs (an awkward acronym at best) are a part of, and contributors to, a rising tide of democracy around the world. They are built on local traditions but are linked and grow via modern information and communications technology. They learn from Western examples (both good and bad) and are spurred by the recognition that their governments either can't or won't provide necessary services.

The growth and development of Southern NGOs have not always been tidy, as is the case with any democratic process. These new NGOs have had to learn all at once how to influence government policy, educate their constituents, introduce new programs and raise money to support themselves. In many countries they are a new phenomenon, marking a trail only dimly lit by others. The NGO movement across Africa, Asia and Latin America is vigorously vocal and has taken its place in the international scene among government policymakers and multinational business leaders.

Continued on next page



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&

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Osama El-Sherif

Continued from previous page

In the past decade, people all over the world organized when development strategies (often imposed from a Western perspective) faltered and leaders disappointed their citizens with corrupt and inefficient policies and practices. A classic example of Western aid gone awry was a mid-1980s project in Niger in which productive cropland was cleared—without consultation with local farmers—and replaced with eucalyptus trees. The fast-growing trees absorbed much valuable ground water, which also made them useless as fuel.

Even in nations where voluntary organizations are strictly controlled by the government, small groups have discovered ways to reach out to one another to call attention to urgently needed changes—and in many cases, to make it happen. Not only in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, but all over the South, from Thailand to Paraguay, the stranglehold of the military, the oligarchy and the theocracy has been loosened.

As always among NGOs, necessity begets invention. The volunteer community moves in where government is absent or irresponsible. In India, where it is virtually impossible for landless women to obtain credit, women have organized to establish credit unions to support each other's activities. Groups in Central America have organized assistance for refugees of civil wars, and others in Thailand and the Philippines

Susan Goodwillie is an independent consultant who works with NGOs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Perdita Huston is a writer who has worked with population, environment and development NGOs.

Comrades in aid?

World Bank and NGOs working, and arguing, with each other

THERE IS growing recognition worldwide, says the World Bank in Washington, DC, that the public sector is limited in what it can do to promote economic development and solve social and environmental problems, and "as societies come to terms with these limitations, many look to citizens' organizations and nonprofit groups to assume a greater role."

The Bank deals mainly with its 152 member governments and seldom funds NGOs directly. But it encourages governments to work with NGOs on development projects, because they can involve the grassroots in planning and have been successful in reaching the poor, often in the remotest geographic areas and often more efficiently than public sector agencies.

NGO involvement in Bank-funded projects has grown rapidly. In the 15 years from 1973 to 1988, NGOs were involved in about 15 Bank projects every year. In 1989, the number jumped to about 50, and last year to 89—40 percent of all the new projects approved.

have organized to protest the trafficking of women and sex tourism. In West Africa, unemployed urban college graduates are finding common cause with rural farmers and are working to develop more effective marketing techniques for food crops.

NGOs are an effective training ground for leadership and present opportunities for personal and professional growth, especially in societies where women are denied active participation in public life. Through their work in NGOs, women can influence public policy by prodding governments to respond to unmet needs in health, education, the environment, family planning, credit and other vital areas.

Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai is one who has professionally grown and become influential through NGO work. Her original goal of creating a Greenbelt Movement to reforest the villages of Kenya was a tremendous success. "When you organize people to plant trees," she says, "you are also planting ideas for organizing." She inspired a national movement which earned the respect of the government of Kenya and she is recognized throughout the world for her leadership in the environmental movement.

Across the continent in Senegal, Mazide N'Diaye has moved beyond supportive work with individual grassroots organizations to form the African Network for Integrated Development (known in Senegal as RADII). His innovative strategy has created business-like arrangements between RADII and the groups it assists in a way that fosters responsibility and independence. N'Diaye is also the founder and president of the Forum of African Voluntary

Development Organizations (FAVDO), a consortium of African NGOs.

Many NGOs are struggling to secure a base of support among the citizenry. Southern NGOs typically do not benefit from the philanthropic tradition that has long supported Northern NGOs with plentiful financial resources and volunteers. A major challenge is to turn the charitable traditions of village welfare associations—and the many other ways in which poor people express their generosity—into a broad base of support for the new NGOs.

The growth and diversity of NGOs in the South have important implications for their more established counterparts in the North. When there were so few local NGOs in the South, it seemed entirely appropriate for Northern organizations, like Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, or Partners for Productivity, to commit people and resources to "grassroots development." Local NGOs now play that role.

There's still plenty of work for Northern NGOs to do, if they're willing to shift gears (such as find financial support for Southern NGOs). There is also the long-neglected task of educating the public in the US and Europe about development in the South. Northern NGOs such as Oxfam, Panos, ChildReach, and Bread for the World have taken the lead in committing people and resources to educating their constituents and the public on development issues.

An example of the kind of positive leadership Northern NGOs should provide is a statement of principles which originated in the US. Nearly a decade ago, a group of US NGO leaders in the development, environment and population fields came together to discuss the issues surrounding their similarity of goals and to commit to working in unison rather than in isolation. They produced a statement of principles entitled "Making Common Cause." The idea caught on and in 1989 the International Council of Voluntary Agencies in Geneva led the charge to circulate the document among Northern and Southern NGOs. Many NGOs have agreed to the pledge's principles.

The statement reads, in part: "We have a common goal in striving for a more livable, nonviolent planet. We share a deep concern for the world's poor. We affirm both the integrity, stability, and beauty of the ecosystem and the imperative of social justice. We recognize that poverty, environmental degradation, and population growth are inextricably related and that none of these fundamental problems can be successfully addressed in isolation. We will

unless a project's conception, planning, implementation, and decision-making are led by the recipients, it will have inadequate meaning for them and they will be unlikely to feel responsible for its sustenance and outcome."

"But committing to a new relationship doesn't make it happen," says Stephen Commins, policy and planning adviser for World Vision International, a relief and development NGO. "The problem

Making it to the top

Seeking UN accreditation

FROM AMNESTY International to Zonta International, over 1,300 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) around the world are accredited by and work in partnership with the UN NGO and Institutional Relations Section of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

The mandate of the NGO Section is clear: to serve as accreditor, clearing house and special pleader for member NGOs, helping them gain access and influence within the overwhelming UN bureaucracy. Since 1989, the number of DPI-accredited NGOs has jumped from 48 to more than 1,300.

The NGO Section diligently serves its member NGOs, hosting weekly briefings as well as an annual conference. This year's conference, "Regional Conflicts: Threats to World Peace and Progress," will be held in September at the UN headquarters and will draw over 1,000 participants.

To become UN accredited, an NGO must be a regionally, nationally or internationally recognized group in existence for at least three years. The NGO should support the Official Charter of the UN and be able to distribute information about the UN via publications, newsletters, radio, broadcast or symposia.

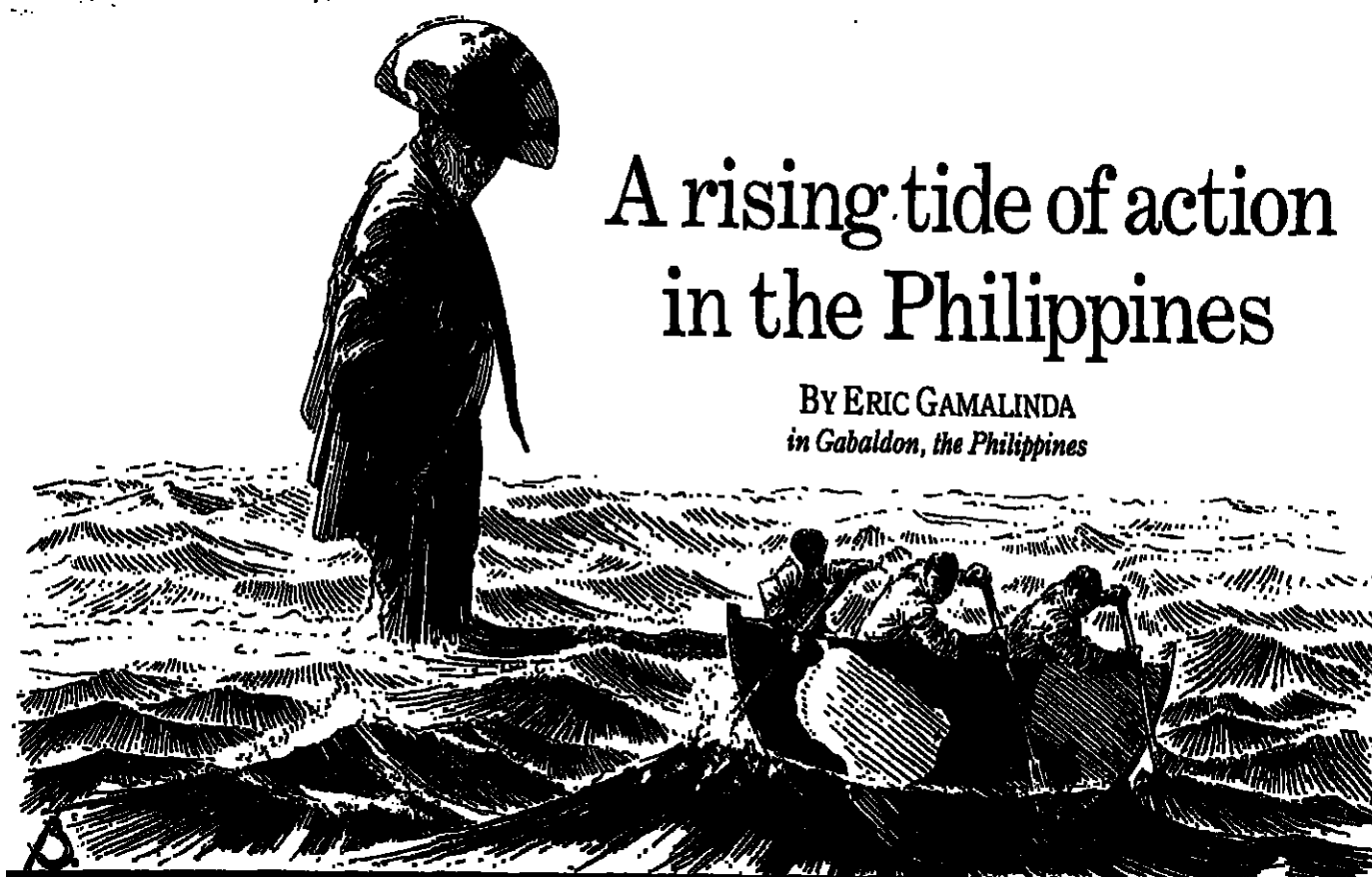
NGOs benefit greatly from their UN accreditation, but some say that it is the UN that reaps the greater reward from the relationship. Ruth Chalmers, executive director of the Jane Addams Peace Association, the educational arm of The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, recognizes the privilege of attending the DPI-sponsored briefings and conferences, but says that "the UN benefits more because we disseminate all their information."

—By Eliza Brown, in New York

is that the recognition to find a new partnership is ahead of practice. It is easy to say we need to operate in a different way, but how do you get these organizations, especially the big Northern NGOs with huge bureaucracies and massive funding organizations, to operate in a different fashion?"

Regardless of these problems, the flourishing NGO community is significantly strengthening civil society, providing the connective tissue between the state and the citizen, a requisite for any functioning democracy. As democracy spreads, inevitably so do voluntary service and social change organizations.

NGOs everywhere have become conscious that there is strength in working together, that there is much they can do together that can't be done alone.



A rising tide of action in the Philippines

By ERIC GAMALINDA
in Gabaldon, the Philippines

DIEGO FRIGAL, 51-year-old chief of the Dumagat tribe, is witness to the rapid changes the landscape of Nueva Ecija province has seen in 15 years. "It was all very beautiful and very green," he says. "We had a lot of food to eat, a lot of wildlife, a lot of fruits. Now look around you."

Gabaldon, a small town north of Manila, nestles in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. While there are still large tracts of virgin forest on parts of the mountains, these foothills, home to some 300 tribesmen, are all but denuded.

Two years ago this was the epicenter of a massive earthquake. Large parts of the hills were devastated, and soon after typhoons sent muddy torrents flooding through the villages. Searching for the cause of their misfortunes, the Dumagats have fixed on uncontrolled logging. Today they are the most active members of a nongovernmental organization (NGO) called Guardians of Nature for the Future of our Children, a church-based community group that has become one of the most vocal opponents of illegal logging in the Philippines.

It was organized by a 32-year-old Roman Catholic priest, Father Edwin Beley, who has joined the volunteers in activities ranging from educational campaigns to a 64-day hunger strike two years ago at the Manila offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Like many NGOs facing inefficiency in government, they have taken matters into their own hands, and volunteers have risked their lives by lying on the road to prevent the passage of trucks carrying logs. "We began to worry about the future," says 29-year-old volunteer Joe Gutierrez, "about the next generation, so we decided to organize and protest and not to wait for the government because their promises always come to nothing."

A coalition of NGOs has charged that the government is neglecting the people.

Eric Gamalinda is a journalist for the Manila-based Center for Investigative Journalism.

land reform is perpetually derailed by land-owning legislators, there is widespread poverty and malnourishment, human rights violations are frequent and natural resources are degraded by illegal logging and fishing. This is one factor in the proliferation of NGOs, says Fernando Aldaba, general secretary of a caucus of development NGO networks. "In the absence of government, you see NGOs," he says, "and as a reaction to widespread poverty, some people are moved to action, and one venue is NGO work."

There were about 41,000 NGOs in the Philippines at last count, and they have recently played an important role in delivering basic services. "For a growing number of professionals, the NGO world has become an alternative career path," says Karina Constantino-David, who works with a partnership of 45 organizations involved in education and research. Even former President Corazon Aquino says she will do NGO work.

Government response has been ambivalent, says Constantino-David: "The military has tried to intervene by insidiously labeling most NGOs as communist fronts and quietly pressuring foreign governments to support only certain NGOs."

Green Forum-Philippines, the widest network of environmental NGOs in the country, reports that some groups working in northern Luzon "have been recognized as effective conduits for assistance...to the point of arousing government fears that funds are being channeled to subversive causes under the guise of development."

Under martial law imposed by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, some of the few NGO-like organizations then existing, to represent student activists, political groups, the Catholic Church, business and academic groups, were outlawed or persecuted. But NGOs boomed after Marcos was ousted in 1986 by a popular uprising backed by the military.

Foreign donors pumped in resources, many NGOs worked to help elect Aquino,

and the movement became acceptable. But until recently, most were ragtag organizations, fractured by politics and division over objectives. Recently formed coalitions and networks have given them a semblance of unity.

Some NGOs supported candidates in the recent national elections, but the idea that there is an NGO vote seems premature—most of their candidates lost. In fact, fly-by-night NGOs set up by politicians to raise campaign money are one of the problems of the movement. Recently there has been much debate about whether NGOs, which have avoided partisanship, should seek a more direct hand in government. "If NGOs are committed to grassroots empowerment, why have they shied away from the issue of capturing power?" asks Constantino-David.

The 24-year communist insurgency poses another problem. Like many individuals and communities, some NGOs are caught in the cross fire between the military and the insurgent New People's Army. But members of these organizations, many of them working quietly in inaccessible barrios in the country, seem undaunted.

Here in Gabaldon, despite lack of funds and threats from big loggers, the Guardians of Nature continue their crusade. "We have come this far," says volunteer Gutierrez, "so we have to carry on. We don't think of ourselves, but of the future."

New voices, new venues

Michael Neumann of Hamburg, Germany, the chief of the German National Board of NGOs, says that the German Board of NGOs is a unique institution. It is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of NGOs in Germany. It is a unique institution because it is the only one of its kind in the world. It is a unique institution because it is the only one of its kind in the world.

The WorldPaper is a unique institution. It is a unique institution because it is the only one of its kind in the world. It is a unique institution because it is the only one of its kind in the world. It is a unique institution because it is the only one of its kind in the world.



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matters of global concern.

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Blame it on Rio

One world, many bureaucrats

BY TARZIE VITTACHI
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A FAIR cross section of the "educated" middle classes of the world was in Rio de Janeiro in June trying to save the environment. The environment is a middle-class preoccupation, just as the feminist movement is. The working class and the poor, who are usually black or brown and broke, have something else on their minds: survival, how to keep themselves and their children alive and well today and tomorrow. Their environment is poverty: joblessness, homelessness, a lack of water, firewood, education or training, and the complete absence of hope.

But, to be fair, for a few days in June some 20,000 members of the world's middle classes (mostly their young) milled about Rio's Flamingo Park expressing their "concern" over the wretchedness of the destitute. The gathering was called the Global Forum, the largest gathering of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in history.

Being sensitive types, they were angry that the middle-class officials of the Western countries, meeting 30 miles away in Rio Centro, were not giving due weight to the development half of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. To those in Flamingo Park, the officials in Rio Centro were preoccupied only with the natural environment—and conserving its resources for future generations of the middle class.

But, to be truthful, they were not very clear about what could be done about poverty, especially about what they themselves could do about it. The concern of almost all the T-shirt messages I saw and all the chatter I heard in Flamingo Park and in hotel lobbies was over tropical forests, wetlands, water, birds and wild animals. Aside from all these contradictions, there was something there in that huge gathering of NGOs which, apart from its unprecedented size, gave it the quality of a different sort of human carnival than the world has ever seen before.

The extraordinary sense of belonging to *one world* was in stark contrast to the prevailing mood at the official meetings of the world governments gathered in Rio Centro. They were far enough away to be insulated against any emanations of ideas or feelings from unofficial people. Organized into national delegations separated from one another by the pompousities of protocol and effete diplomatic nicety, they were busy protecting not so much the Earth or its denizens but their conflicting, so-called national interests.

All the familiar divisiveness was on display: North versus South, the world versus George Bush, environment versus development, the population controllers versus the Pope, the advocates of aid for Africa versus the advocates of aid for Eastern Europe. Thousands of minions were scurrying around with paper, negotiating over a comma here or a word there because the documents had to be ready for the heads of state to sign.

As I left Rio de Janeiro there was a sweetness in my heart which I had not felt for a long time. The wondrous sense of belonging to one human race had been revitalized in Flamingo Park. But the sweetness was tinged with some sadness by the realization that territorial nationalism was still alive and kicking. And I remembered a line from an anonymous poet: "national boundaries are wounds on the skin of Mother Earth."

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Tarzie Vittachi is a *WorldPaper* associate editor.

ASHOKA is a US-based organization scouting developing countries for talented, imaginative individuals who can bring entrepreneurial skills to the solution of social problems. Named after an Indian emperor remembered for his enterprise in social reform, Ashoka currently funds more than 300 fellows around the world. Two Ashoka fellows, Antonio Peres, who organized Mexico City residents to rebuild their lives and homes after the 1985 earthquake, and Paolo Brown, a blind pianist for the deaf, are active in programs for disabled and disadvantaged Indians.

GLOBAL AIDS Resource Center is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) with a staff of more than 200. In the 1980s, the center's focus was on the prevention of the spread of the disease. It is now the world's largest center for information on the disease, and it is also the world's largest center for the distribution of condoms.

GLOBAL Women's Fund is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources. It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources. It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources.

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HUMAN rights are the focus of activity for dozens of NGOs, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Lawyers Committee on Human Rights.

INTERNATIONAL Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) is a federation of national physicians' organizations comprising about 200,000 doctors, medical students, health workers and other medical personnel. IPPNW won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for its work in preventing nuclear war. It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources.

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Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the African Association for Liberty and Adult Communication, provide services, facilitate research and offer support to their member NGOs.

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ermination Theology. SERPAJ chapters throughout Latin America now work on development issues as well as human rights. SERPAJ organizer Adolfo Perez Esquivel, once imprisoned in Argentina, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980. The Nobel committee compared Perez's efforts in Argentina to Andrei Sakharov's in the USSR.

TRICKLE-UP Programs aim to help the poor help themselves. Trickle-Up provides small grants of \$5,000 to groups of five or more interested in creating businesses. In 15 years, it has helped start more than 25,000 small businesses in 96 countries.

UNION of Concerned Scientists (UCS), which began as a US-based movement opposing the war in Vietnam, is concerned with problems of overpopulation, environmental pollution and environmental damage. The UCS is leading a campaign to reduce global warming, ozone depletion and nuclear pollution worldwide.

WORLDWIDE Watch is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources. It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that promotes the preservation and management of the world's natural resources.

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Silent summit

Good cause, bad vibes in Rocinha

BY PIP WOOD
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

THE 300,000 residents of the Rocinha district in Rio de Janeiro live in ramshackle houses hugging the hillside, joined by winding alleyways and stairwells alongside open sewers. Ravines caused by soil erosion are filled with garbage. It differs little from many other slums around the world, and it was for this reason that a group of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) chose it as the site for a news conference during this summer's Earth Summit.

The issues to be highlighted were those being ignored by scores of world leaders at the Earth Summit (officially called the UN Conference on Environment and Development) in Rio Centro a few kilometers away—the reality of urban poverty.

The news conference was an example of the ways in which NGOs tried to influence the official proceedings at the Earth Summit. More than 1,500 of them came together at a Global Forum, an unprecedented gathering of NGOs, held on one side of Rio while the heads of governments met on the other. But far from stealing the limelight from the Summit sessions, the NGOs had to fight to be heard. "We've been out there fighting for every inch of access," said Betty Olt of the World Wildlife Fund.

The NGOs were largely unsuccessful in influencing the Summit. The lack of specifics in the treaties and agreements infuriated them, and Roberto Smeraldi, of Friends of the Earth, said: "On many issues, UNCED is moving backwards, yet the world's environment and development crisis is moving full speed ahead."

Josh Karliner of Greenpeace complained that "the movement of this conference has been diametrically opposed to the direction we and other groups felt the event should have taken."

However, the Forum succeeded in its second objective, which was to improve the international network of NGOs. Contacts were made, coalitions formed and Southern NGOs from developing countries assumed a larger role than in the past—although not as large as some wished. One promising initiative is the Earth Council proposed by Maurice Strong, secretary general of the Rio Summit. The council, comprising NGO activists, business leaders and independent media, would increase public awareness of and prod governments into action on the major unresolved issues of the Rio conference.

Abe Abasseka, from Senegal, argued that NGOs should have spent more time networking and organizing and less attacking President Bush. "They came here with thousands of tons of paper," said Abasseka. "Will those papers be read? I don't believe they will, and the money could have been better spent on building solidarity."

Despite the criticisms, NGOs have helped raise awareness of problems the Summit was designed to address, and Gary Herberston, of the Unity and Diversity World Council, claimed that it was NGOs that dragged governments to the negotiating table. But the most serious challenge to NGOs remains that of being ignored by governments. While the Global Forum raised their visibility and solidarity, it did not ensure that their voices will be heard.

Pip Wood is a Cambridge, US-based journalist who travels widely and writes about human rights and environmental issues.



THE NGO REVOLUTION

The lessons of Lyari

High ideals reach the streets of Karachi

BY SADIQA SALAHUDDIN
in Karachi, Pakistan

WITH THE SPREAD of drug addiction, Lyari, the oldest part of this city and home to 350,000, was becoming forbidden territory for outsiders and even for the authorities, and heading past the

point at which recovery would be possible. Rising to the challenge, a group of young men decided that street schools could be part of the answer, spreading education and attracting children and young people to a useful evening activity.

Defying the drug underworld, they started some of the schools in the lanes where heroin was bought and sold and

smoked. In reply, they were beaten up, even thrown into a dreary police lockup on trumped-up charges. But the battle continued and now there are 17 street schools teaching about 4,500 children—40 percent girls—from preschool to matriculation (grade 10) level. Most of the youngsters attend regular schools in the morning and street schools later, where they are taught by 200 volunteers, including 24 women university students and unemployed young men.

The school organizations are also involved in immunization programs, health education, dispensaries including family planning, sports and recreation, libraries and reading rooms, and vocational cen-

ters for women.

Small fees and donations support the schools, which have little access to government. So when the teachers expressed a need for training, the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Resource Center of the Aga Khan Foundation helped the school groups to prepare a proposal and put them in touch with the highly regarded Teachers' Resource Center (TRC) in Karachi, and with a donor, Oxfam. A hundred teachers have attended the TRC.

The war with drugs is not over, but hope now blooms in the narrow, twisting lanes of Lyari, and the schools project restores faith in human drive, enterprise and motivation.

There are in Pakistan many examples of NGOs taking the initiative and discovering innovative responses to dire problems. A study last year by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) listed 4,833 NGOs in all parts of the country. In addition, there are some 21,000 cooperatives and a vast array of unregistered organizations. But how many NGOs are active and successful is debatable. The UNDP found that 40 percent had no physical assets such as a building or equipment, and 60 percent had no income beyond membership fees of less than 40 cents (US) a month.

Their real wealth is in their dedicated volunteers, but their deficiency is that the volunteers lack professional skills. In most cases, community-based NGOs revolve around one person, or a few people, and the leaders are not familiar with the techniques of community participation and identification of needs, or with where to turn for support.

Initiatives such as the Lyari street schools have the potential to multiply if the environment is encouraging and management and technical training is available. For example, the Aga Khan Rural Support Program is working in cooperation with government, international agencies, and commercial institutions, to raise incomes for 800,000 people in rugged northern Pakistan where four of the world's highest mountain ranges intersect.

Its approach is based on three principles: 1) Small farmers must organize themselves into broad-based, multipurpose organizations which meet regularly as a village assembly to make decisions and monitor progress; 2) Farmers must contribute to collective saving to generate their own capital; and 3) Farmers must upgrade their skills.

Another example of NGO activity is the pilot project in Orangi, a squatter settlement in Karachi. The first program was for low-cost sanitation and so far house owners have financed, built and managed the layout of 3,000 primary drains for 40,000 households. But the project has expanded into programs for immunization, family planning, kitchen gardening, work centers for women, mobile libraries to upgrade teaching skills, student activities and low-cost housing.

Sadiqa Salahuddin is director of training and education programs for the Aga Khan Foundation in Pakistan.

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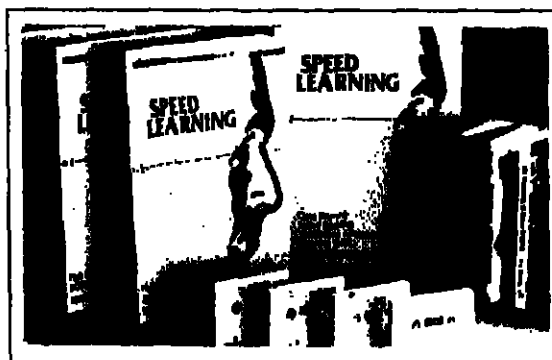
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THE NGO REVOLUTION

US groups balance self-interest, idealism

Despite recession, citizens are donating more time and giving more money

BY TRICIA CURRY
in Chicago, USA

A GROUP OF tenants in Chicago's Cabrini Green public housing project grew tired of living in a crime-ridden neighborhood in homes infested with cockroaches. Fed up with the city government's broken promises to improve conditions, they formed a nonprofit organization and raised funds to buy one of the buildings from the city. They have formed their own management group and now their graffiti-free building is patrolled hourly by volunteers, called the Cabrini Green Parent Patrol, and a neat flower garden graces the cracked cement walkway near the entrance.

"We felt that we could do a better job than the city," says Dorien Scott, a resident volunteer. "Now we have control and it's working."

In the US, there has always been a civil society of citizen volunteers paralleling the government. Democracy is built on a premise of citizen involvement, and Americans traditionally view government with suspicion and honor private initiative. It was natural, therefore, for President George Bush to ask Americans to create "a thousand points of light," as he put it, by providing services that the government was unable or unwilling to provide, in the areas of health care, adult literacy training, and aid to immigrants, among others.

To encourage nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the federal government allows individuals and corporations to donate money to them and then deduct it from their taxes. In most cases, the NGOs themselves are exempt from taxation.

Americans donated to philanthropic causes 5.75 percent more in 1990 than they did in 1989, and more again last year despite the economic recession, raising the total to US\$124.7 billion. In terms of work, more than 98 million Americans volunteered an average of four hours a week in 1990, a total of more than 20 billion hours worth \$170 billion, according to a poll by Independent Sector, a Washington-based coalition of over 800 foundations and volunteer organizations.

The number of people offering their time to clean up and rebuild the homes and businesses devastated by the riots in Los Angeles astounded aid coordinator Charles Fox at the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles. In Chicago, which was paralyzed by a flood in April, the force of volunteers increased by 30 percent this year, reports the Volunteer Center of Chicago.

Many NGOs are formed by people disillusioned with the government's inability to identify problems at the local level and make improvements. A common complaint is that government does not listen or communicate well with those it tries to help. NGOs can help bridge the gap between government intentions and public participation.

For instance, Chicago's citywide recycling program is a mystery to most who live here. So groups like the Beverly Area Planning Association are trying to change the recycling habits of residents in their own neighborhoods on a house-by-house basis. But although the group has approached the city government with a program that works, there has been no response.

Chicago's Cabrini Green NGO is local and only a few years old, but there are many large and long-established organizations. For example, Oxfam America, an offshoot of the UK-based NGO, has worked around the world to help poor communities become self-sufficient and is planning to apply at home what it has learned abroad. Advisory boards have been set up in New York, Minneapolis and Seattle, and grassroots programs are proposed for Los Angeles.

New York City's Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NBCCC) also is putting power into the hands of people who need help the most. In 1974, a rash of arson and an exodus by landlords shook the densely populated borough. Corrupt insurance and real estate practices as well as neg-

lect by government housing authorities undermined the community. Many residents lost housing or were forced to live without heat, plumbing or electricity. The NBCCC mobilized to help improve conditions "building by building," according to executive director Brian O'Toole. The results have been gradual, but the group has grown steadily, welcoming into its fold renters who have felt improvements firsthand and now want to help others.

This grassroots approach prompted a UN spokeswoman to call the NGO "one of New York's success stories." O'Toole describes NBCCC as "a transparent medium for change" since the full-time staff helps only to train residents to reach their own goals. Currently, the group is focusing on ways to improve water quality and the sewage system.

"I think now more than ever people need ways to participate in projects that promote change in their own communities," says John Hammock, Oxfam America's executive director. ♦



Latin American group energizes 'civil society'

Grupo Esquel helps to bridge the gap between ideas and reality

IN LATIN AMERICA the government has traditionally dominated society, backed by the church and often by the military, and the ideal of a civil society based on voluntary action and private philanthropy has been weak—even discouraged by the authorities.

But in the 1980s, governments in many countries downsized their role, imposing painful economic adjustments by slashing social and economic development programs and privatizing business. Living standards for the majority fell sharply, and there were few nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) ready to fill the gap.

Grupo Esquel, with autonomous branches in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and the US, and affiliates in Bolivia, Costa Rica and Honduras, was formed to encourage the development of civil societies—that is, to promote more vigorous citizen action to solve economic

and social problems instead of waiting for government leadership. Led by boards of directors including politicians, businessmen, intellectuals, grassroots leaders and academics, the groups have four main tasks: to be catalysts for initiatives focused on improving the welfare and capacities of low-income people; to mobilize human, institutional and financial

resources in both Latin America and the developed democracies to support these activities; to broaden the vision of leaders by bringing them together to share ideas and to collaborate on solutions; and to strengthen the civil society in Latin America so that it assumes a more assertive role.

Instead of operating programs directly, the Esquel groups fund and assist other NGOs. Seeded by grants from major US foundations, the groups are now converting themselves into national foundations with substantial endowments raised in their own countries and in the US, Canada and elsewhere in the North. For example, the Grupo Esquel Ecuador Foundation is seeking initial capitalization of US\$7.7 million, 40 percent from Ecuador and 60 percent from outside.

The group is supporting 38 projects, ranging from a community enterprise growing vegetables

and medicinal plants to health projects whose workers are mothers trained in basic natural medicine and first aid, anatomy and nutrition. Currently it is assisting the following NGOs and projects:

• The Information Center for Social Movements in Ecuador runs a pilot project for youth gangs in Guasmó, a suburb of

Guayaquil inhabited by 280,000 people in dire poverty. Denying the social stigma attached to gangs which are synonymous with crime, the Center organizes sports, cultural and recreational activities.

• As part of its Living with Dignity program which has many different projects, the Center also has 2,500 hectares for family vegetable gardens, and it manages Solidarity Popular Schools in the poorest neighborhoods of the major cities and in three provinces in the Amazon.

• Family Reintegration and Placement seeks to rehabilitate abandoned children and reintegrate them with their families or substitute families.

• Education Today trains teachers and provides teaching materials for three Faith and Joy schools sponsored by the Catholic Church for 2,000 students in poor areas.

• The Handpickers Foundation supports artisans working with tagua, the so-called vegetable ivory, to develop production technologies and exports.

Esquel Ecuador's main problem is excessive demand: an average of two projects a day seek funding.

By Diego Cornejo, a social scientist and commentator in Quito, Ecuador

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Médias

Semaine jordanienne sur RMC

Ce n'est pas une coïncidence, RMC Moyen-Orient et le roi Hussein soufflent leurs bougies en même temps. Pour l'occasion, la radio arbore les couleurs du royaume. Interview de Jacques Taquet, directeur général de RMC Moyen-Orient

LE JOURDAIN: POURQUOI avoir choisi la Jordanie pour fêter les 20 ans d'RMC-M.O.?

Jacques Taquet: J'avais dans l'idée de concrétiser ce concept, c'est-à-dire un fil rouge sur une semaine consacré à un pays. Deuxième élément: j'ai constaté qu'il était possible de faire une jonction avec le 40ème anniversaire de l'arrivée au pouvoir du roi Hussein. Enfin, quand j'ai vu les derniers résultats d'audience, je me suis aperçu que nous étions tournés vers l'Arabie Saoudite, le Liban ou la Syrie et que la Jordanie était un peu délaissée. Un tel phénomène peut s'expliquer par la tradition anglophone de la Jordanie. On peut penser que ce pays est plutôt enclin à écouter la BBC. Mais selon les derniers sondages, dans l'ensemble des pays de notre zone de diffusion, RMC est en tête. En Syrie et en Jordanie, une majorité d'auditeurs a appris le déclenchement de la guerre du Golfe en écoutant RMC. Pour le suivi du conflit, en Syrie, nous sommes nettement en tête devant la BBC. En Jordanie, l'écart est moins important, mais nous devançons tout de même la radio britannique. Dans l'ensemble, une érosion de l'écoute touche toutes les radios internationales. En cinq ans, la BBC a perdu la moitié de ses auditeurs en Arabie Saoudite. En fait, RMC est la seule des ces radios qui progresse.

L.J. Comment expliquez-vous un tel engouement? Quels sont les atouts d'RMC Moyen-Orient?

Jacques Taquet: Sur notre antenne, les choses sérieuses sont traitées avec une pointe d'humour et de dérision. On n'a pas de tabous. Malgré tout, il est hors de question de provoquer. Mon mot d'ordre est simple: pas de complaisance, pas de tabous, mais pas de provocation. Quand à l'objectivité demandée par certains, il est évident qu'elle n'existe pas. Les pressions sur la radio sont permanentes, elles

sont à la hauteur du média.

L.J. Quelles places réservez-vous à l'information et à l'animation?

Jacques Taquet: Sur RMC Moyen-Orient, il y a une antenne. Vous n'avez pas de ligne royale consacrée à l'information et à côté des salimbanques de seconde zone. Selon les derniers sondages, RMC en tant que radio de divertissement est placée loin devant la BBC. La preuve: dès que l'intensité de l'actualité baisse, les auditeurs continuent d'écouter RMC.

L.J. RMC, c'est avant tout une radio en arabe?

Jacques Taquet: C'est une radio conceptualisée, pensée et éditée en arabe. Ce n'est pas le cas d'autres grandes radios internationales. Celles-ci travaillent dans leurs langues nationales et traduisent ensuite en arabe. C'est un élément important dans la réussite de RMC Moyen-Orient.

L.J. Pourquoi avez-vous une rédaction en français séparée?

Jacques Taquet: C'est vrai que nous avons deux rédactions. Au début, je voulais la fusion. Mais aujourd'hui je pense que la concurrence interne est aussi un bon moteur. Evidemment, il faut une certaine coordination. Les deux ou trois premiers titres doivent être identiques...

L.J. Autre atout, vous disposez maintenant d'un réseau de correspondants bien implanté?

Jacques Taquet: Quand j'ai été nommé en 1989, nous avions que six correspondants. Aujourd'hui, le réseau est en train de se développer.

Sur notre carte, un certain nombre de places: Washington, Moscou, Londres, Berlin, Téhéran... Depuis quelques semaines, nous avons un correspondant à Tunis. C'est très important car c'est dans cette ville que se trouve le siège de l'OLP. Ce réseau nous permet d'avoir une rapidité de réaction satisfaisante sur les événements. Lorsqu'une

information tombe, nous allons très vite. Bien sûr, il ne s'agit pas de faire du scoop à bas prix... Nous avons été les premiers à annoncer la mort de Sadate, de même pour l'assassinat de Bou-diaf. Après son opération, Arafat a parlé en exclusivité pour RMC. Sur ce sujet, NBC et CNN nous ont demandé la bande.

L.J. Vivez-vous sur vos acquis?

Jacques Taquet: Il faut faire attention. La radio vit sur sa notoriété, j'espère que l'on garde la qualité de cette notoriété. Rien n'est jamais acquis. Si les dirigeants d'une radio ont trop le sentiment de caracoler en tête, je ne leur donne pas trois ans pour retomber... Je rappelle toujours une phrase du patron d'RTL: une radio est première parce qu'elle ne change jamais ses programmes tout en les modifiant un petit peu. Il faut constamment bouleverser, mais l'on doit garder une ligne musicale. Quand ils jouent le bouton, les auditeurs doivent en quelques secondes savoir qu'ils sont sur RMC.

L.J. Votre principale difficulté?

Jacques Taquet: Nous sommes basés à Paris. Il nous est difficile de connaître parfaitement l'évolution des pays de notre zone d'écoute. Il est important que nos journalistes fassent régulièrement des voyages dans leurs pays d'origine. Longtemps, nous avons eu beaucoup de Libanais... Nous voulons employer des gens de tous les pays, avoir une palette de voix et d'accent.

L.J. Ne devez-vous pas vous succéder en partie au ton modéré que vous avez adopté pendant la guerre du Golfe?

Jacques Taquet: Notre philosophie était simple: il ne fallait pas que les auditeurs tournent le bouton. Pour cela, ils ne devaient pas avoir l'impression que nous étions alignés sur une position comme c'était le cas avec la BBC. On m'a beaucoup reproché



Jacques Taquet

d'avoir un correspondant à Bagdad. Mais pour faire la guerre, il faut être où il y a la guerre.

Les gens que je rencontre me disent que nous avons pris une position neutre, équilibrée. Au fond, la radio était un peu sur la même longueur d'onde que la Jordanie.

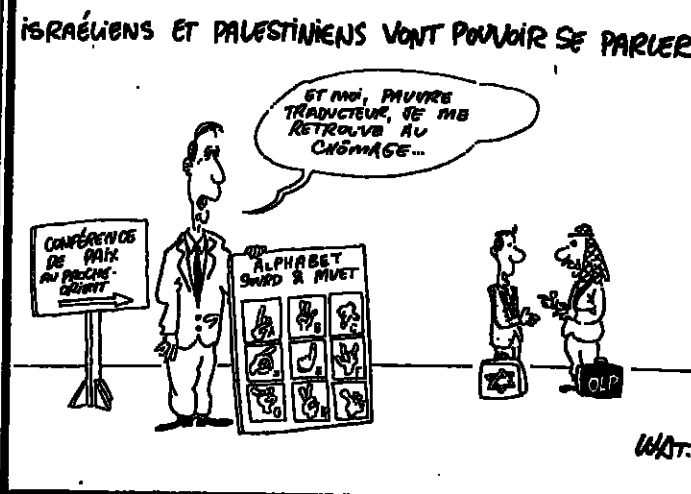
L.J. Cette semaine jordanienne va-t-elle être renouvelée dans d'autres pays?

Jacques Taquet: C'est le début d'un processus. Nous allons nous rendre dans les pays de no-

tre zone de diffusion dès qu'il y aura des événements importants. L'objectif de RMC Moyen-

Orient, c'est d'être sur le terrain, de s'imprégner de la culture et de l'air du temps dans les pays. Malgré l'éloignement, nous voulons ne pas nous couper des sensibilités sociales et politiques. Nous devons y veiller constamment, sans quoi nous finirons par faire une radio parisienne.

Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer



Reportage

A la recherche de l'embargo

Le roi Hussein, lors de sa rencontre avec James Baker, a autorisé les journalistes à se rendre à la frontière jordanio-irakienne. Selon l'enquête de notre envoyée spéciale, Michèle Rieux, l'embargo est respecté... Ses conséquences sur l'économie du royaume sont lourdes.

RUWEISHED, huit heures du matin. Des dizaines de véhicules (cars, voitures particulières, taxis collectifs et camions) attendent l'autorisation de passage obligatoire des douanes jordanienues. Au centre de nulle part, au cœur du désert inhospitalier, quelques bâtiments préfabriqués tiennent lieu de poste-frontière jordanien. A un kilomètre vers l'est, la frontière irakienne. Des enfants qui viennent du pays de Saddam, vidés par un voyage et une attente interminables, s'effondrent en larmes.

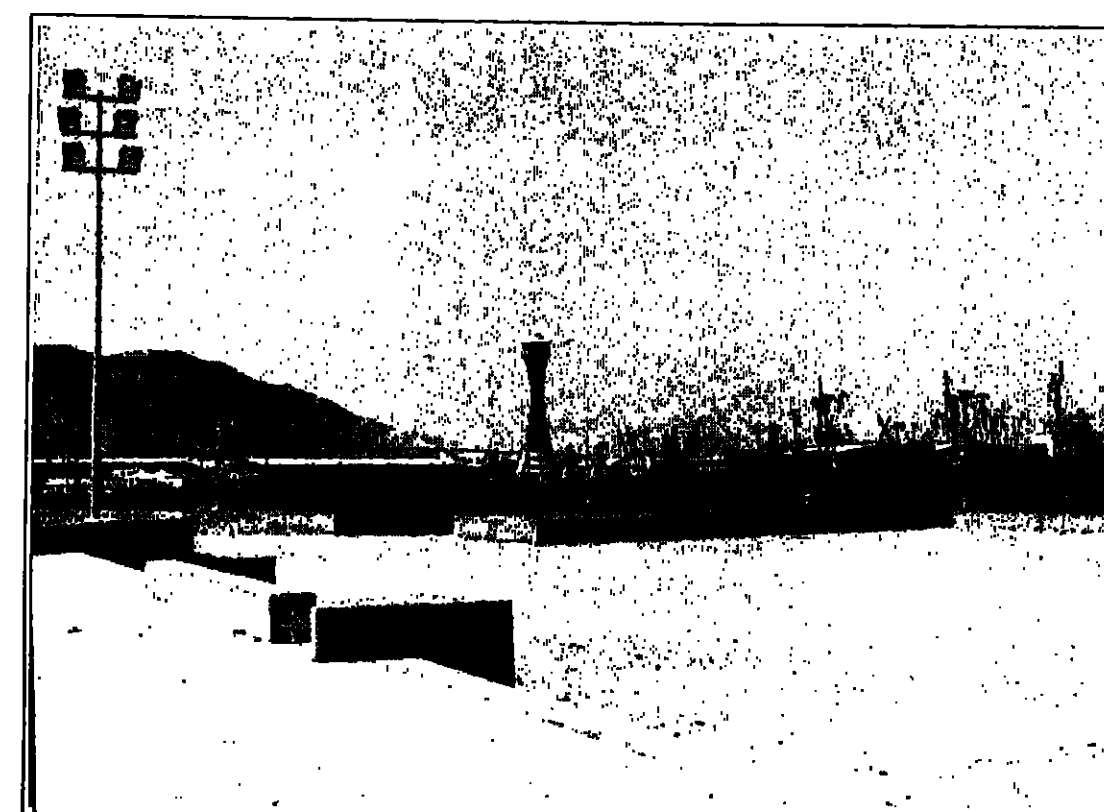
Des femmes, dont les papiers ne sont pas en règle, supplient les fonctionnaires de police de les laisser transiter par la Jordanie. Destination: la Syrie où les attend leur famille. Les hommes, résignés, ouvrent les coffres des voitures pour permettre la fouille des bagages. Des douaniers s'occupent des camions et de leur chargement. Un sur huit, en moyenne, est inspecté à Ruweished. Comme ce camion transportant des oeufs, seule marchandise jordanienne autorisée à quitter le territoire national. Plusieurs cartons seront ouverts par les fonctionnaires des douanes.

Pas d'observateurs de l'ONU

Le poste-frontière de Ruweished est flambant neuf. Il y a un an, il se trouvait à 70 km de la frontière irakienne. Un "no man's land" trop vaste pour permettre un parfait contrôle des frontières. La construction d'une infrastructure moderne et coûteuse illustre la volonté jordanienne d'appliquer les sanctions contre l'Irak. Une centaine de fonctionnaires travaille au bureau des douanes. Sans compter le personnel de la sécurité. Jour et nuit, une force spéciale, la police bédouine, patrouille sur toute la frontière pour éviter d'éventuelles incursions des deux côtés. Un fossé de 200 km de long rejoint la frontière syrienne a été creusé dans le but d'empêcher le passage clandestin de camions.

Les Etats-Unis ont longtemps accusé la Jordanie de ne pas respecter l'embargo contre l'Irak imposé par la résolution 661 des Nations Unies. Le plan américain "Aqaba plus" devait permettre une plus grande surveillance des frontières jordanio-irakiennes.

Des observateurs de l'ONU, à partir du Royaume hachémite, devaient contrôler les charges déversées à l'Irak. Ce qui a été rendu inutile l'inspection des camions se dirigeant vers Aqaba. Mais, invoquant une atteinte à la souveraineté nationale, les autorités jordanienues ont catégoriquement refusé les propositions américaines. Les Etats-Unis ont



A Aqaba, baisse anormale du trafic

répondu à ce "défi" par une menace: l'arrêt des aides financières de l'ordre de 65 millions de dollars en 1992.

Pour apaiser la situation, le Roi a ordonné aux douaniers d'assurer un contrôle plus strict des frontières. Tout en refusant la présence des observateurs de l'ONU. Le 21 juillet, lors de la visite du Secrétaire d'Etat américain James Baker, le Roi Hussein a autorisé les journalistes des médias internationaux à se rendre au poste frontière de Ruweished pour constater les efforts jordanienues en matière d'application de l'embargo. Depuis, trois à quatre équipes par semaine se rendent à la frontière jordanio-irakienne. Munis d'une simple autorisation du Ministère de l'Information, ils ont carte blanche pour visiter le site et questionner les fonctionnaires jordanienues, les voyageurs irakiens...

Diminution du trafic

Au poste-frontière de Ruweished comme au port d'Aqaba, une première impression s'impose: les activités ont nettement diminué. Le directeur de la douane de Ruweished, M. Aziz-Basir confirme: "Il y a trois mois, 300 à 500 camions par jour passaient la frontière dans un sens ou dans un autre. Depuis le 1er juin, leur nombre est descendu à une centaine pour atteindre aujourd'hui une petite quarantaine".

Au port d'Aqaba, le petit nombre de bateaux en transit con-

traste avec l'affluence de la période faste et révolue. Certains prennent racine: quelques navires irakiens sont bloqués depuis le début de l'embargo. Les quais sont étonnamment vides. Le personnel est rare. Pour Dureid Mahasne, directeur général des Autorités Portuaires, "la période estivale connaît traditionnellement une baisse de nos activités. Mais il est évident que depuis le début de l'année, nous avons enregistré une diminution anormale du trafic".

Les chiffres parlent d'eux-mêmes. D'avril à juillet, le port d'Aqaba a traité 700.000 tonnes de marchandises. Habituellement, pour cette même période, il en traite de 1 à 1,3 million. Les raisons invoquées? "Le renforcement des inspections menées par les flottes occidentales au large du détroit de Tyrn provoque en partie cette diminution de nos activités", confie ce responsable. Exemples à l'appui. Un navire transportant des produits chimiques inoffensifs affrété par une société allemande s'est vu à trois reprises refuser l'accès au port et a été forcé à chaque fois de retourner à Suez. Un manque à gagner pour tous, armateurs, exportateurs, importateurs et personnels du port. Une société japonaise a déjà annoncé son intention d'imposer une taxe sur chaque conteneur transporté. De nombreux clients ont annulé leur contrat avec le port d'Aqaba.

Les procédures sont trop contraignantes. Tout navire se dirigeant vers Aqaba doit présenter

des papiers, les détails concernant les différents partenaires et la cargaison. Sinon, le navire doit repartir pour se munir de ces informations. Des vérifications sont faites à partir d'un quartier général basé à Bahrein. Les bateaux y passent environ trois jours d'attente. Mais les erreurs sont toujours possibles. Un chargement de 19 voitures Daihatsu n'a pas pu atteindre le port d'Aqaba en raison d'un malentendu: l'agence d'Amman, importatrice, n'a pas été contactée par les fonctionnaires de l'ONU. Ces derniers se sont adressés à celle d'Aqaba, parfaitement ignorante de la situation. La cargaison, devenue "douteuse", a donc été refusée.

Mais M. Mahasne ne tient pas à expliquer la diminution du trafic du port d'Aqaba uniquement par la lourdeur de ces procédures. Certains commerçants jordanienues qui travaillent avec l'Irak ont également constaté une baisse de leurs activités. Les mesures de rétorsion à l'encontre des grandes familles "commerçantes" irakiennes, prises par les autorités de Bagdad auraient provoqué leur crainte. Pour ne pas subir le même sort, ces commerçants auraient décidé de freiner voire stopper leurs importations. Un ensemble de facteurs qui, en s'ajoutant, ont des répercussions négatives sur l'économie jordanienne. Une bien mauvaise récompense par rapport aux efforts non négligeables du pays pour faire appliquer les sanctions contre l'Irak.

Michèle Rieux.

L'EDITO

Bonus gratuit

LE DERNIER épisode du feuilleton des prêts garantis américains à Israël s'est déroulé à Kennbunkport, Maine. Dans sa résidence privée, à la chandelle, Bush a fini par céder à un Rabin renforcé non pas par sa victoire sur Shamir, mais par un lobby juif américain capable de décider du nom du prochain locataire de la Maison blanche.

Si certains pensent (notamment au Moyen-Orient) que la crédibilité des Américains a été entamée, ils n'ont pas tout à fait tort. Bush n'avait-il pas lié l'octroi de ces garanties à un engagement ferme de la part de Tel Aviv d'arrêter sa politique d'implantations. Même si Rabin s'est borné à suspendre tout nouveau projet de construction, les colons poursuivent leurs activités expansionnistes. Ils poussent la provocation jusqu'à envahir les maisons arabes de Jérusalem-Est, au moment de la réunion Bush-Rabin.

N'empêche que le Président américain a tenu à rappeler à son hôte et à qui de droit que les négociations de paix au Moyen-Orient doivent se baser sur les résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations Unies. Bush a ainsi rappelé à Israël le devoir de se retirer des Territoires-occupés depuis 1967.

Les Palestiniens ont été nommément cités comme étant une partie prenante du processus de paix. Cela ne les satisfait évidemment pas. Ces derniers s'attendaient à ce que Washington reprenne le dialogue avec l'OLP et que la Maison blanche stoppe le rouleau compresseur des colonies de peuplement juives.

Cette rencontre trop médiatisée rentre-t-elle dans le cadre du processus de paix? Ou bien son objectif unique est-il de redorer le blason d'un Bush dont la popularité s'effrite? Une fois la prochaine réunion de Washington lancée, les protagonistes moyen-orientaux découvriront dans quel puzzle la pièce de Kennbunkport collera.

Rabin satisfait de ce gros bonus gratuit verra sa position renforcée face aux négociateurs arabes. Ces derniers, frustrés de l'absence d'un geste américain, accueilleraient volontiers la reprise d'un dialogue avec une Centrale palestinienne apparemment tolérée par Rabin lui-même.

The Star
Téléphone 648298



Michael Caldwell:

A celebrity with unique views on music

By Mary Denis
Special to the STAR

A MAN of many talents — artist, master piano teacher, journalist — Dr. Michael Caldwell has been celebrated by U.S. media for his skill, style and charisma.

Last week Amman had a taste of what this American artist had to offer.

Under the patronage of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) and in cooperation with the American Centre, Caldwell has been on a performing and working visit to the area.

At a piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), the 1990 Pianist of the Year of the Pianist Foundation of America proved worthy his reputation.

The choice of his repertoire favourably unfolded Caldwell's musical versatility and his natural "feel" for modern music with "jazzy" annotations and overtones.

When one plays a musical piece by a romantic composer, Caldwell says, one is "searching for a blue flower — something unattainable." Caldwell's search is marked by compassion.

As a piano teacher, Caldwell believes the goals of the students are what count most.

Piano teachers should determine what the students' goals are, what they want to achieve by studying piano, he told piano teachers in Amman in a seminar.

"I would advise to pay attention to the personality of the student. Not every brilliant piano student could become a good performer. Performing requires more than talent; it requires strong novels, good health and good solid finances," Michael Caldwell.



"Performing requires more than talent; it requires strong novels, good health and good solid finances," Michael Caldwell.

Equipped with an admirable sense of humour and "it-could-have-been-worse" attitude to life in general, Caldwell represents a new trend of artists who are completely in touch with reality.

He has no illusions about classical music. Music cannot be looked at simply as "arts for arts sake" says Caldwell, who was his country's artistic ambassador to four continents.

Music has become political nowadays, he insists.

"It has become increasingly evident that music has its role to play in politics. Music of the 19th

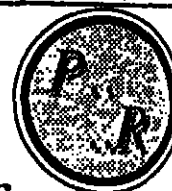
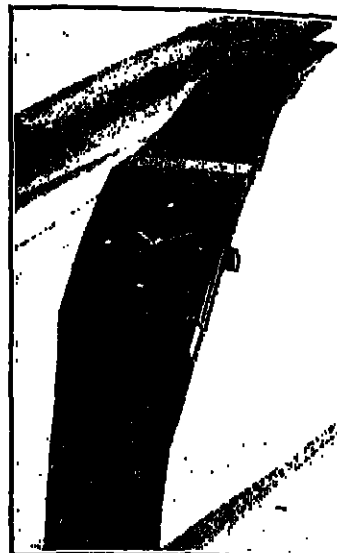
Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Attractive in design and price

AS A COMPLEMENT to its successful DiaStar 'Ceramica' collection, the Rado Watch Co. Ltd. is now bringing a new model onto the market: the Ceramic 'Soft' with a high-tech ceramic case, a scratchproof sapphire crystal and an ultra-light, supple bracelet made of polyurethane. The new watch is a typical representative of the innovative Ceramica range: future-oriented in material, design and wearer-comfort. Water resistant, quartz-precise and timeless.

The new Ceramic 'Soft' is available in three sizes and two dial variations: with gold-colored hands and hour markings or in the jubilee version with four genuine diamonds.

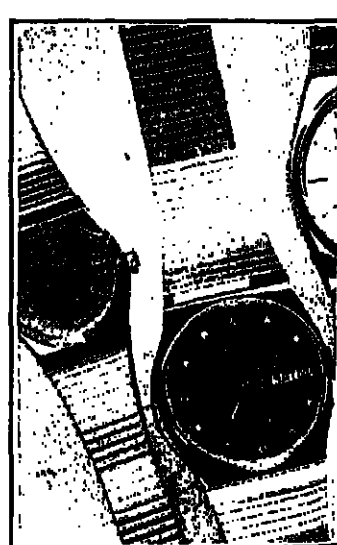
All in all, the Ceramic 'Soft' is a typical Rado: captivating in design, material and durability. And this at an astonishingly attractive price.



The Seastar Automatic Collection from TISSOT

SWISS QUALITY and classic design at unbeatable prices: these are the outstanding features of the new Seastar Automatic Collection from TISSOT. The round cases with their integrated metal bracelets are available in three different sizes and three attractive finishes: stainless steel, bicolor, or plated in yellow gold. The dials come in a choice of colors — silver grey, gold or black with elegant hour markings, and a number of models show the time in hours, minutes and seconds. The exquisite ladies' models feature a date display, while the medium and men's sizes have displays for both the date and the day of the week. The Seastar Automatic has a Swiss precision movement water resistance to 30 meters.

The 18 different models in the Seastar Automatic Collection from TISSOT are available at extremely competitive prices with a one-year TISSOT warranty and first-class TISSOT service in more than 125 countries around the world.



Life through a tea glass



• A photography exhibition in Jordan is not such a common event, but the exhibition by Siham Al-Mufti at the Phoenix Gallery will hopefully encourage more photographers to do the same. Siham has come to Jordan to study Arabic as part of her curriculum at the Exeter University in south east England for a year. While in the region, she has put together a collection of black and white and color photos depicting scenes from Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Photo subjects include landscapes, situations and life. The style of depicting these scenes is different in that her theme is capturing movement and life in a scene by photographing evidence of life such as a rail line, a vehicle or glasses of tea on a tray rather than the people who have given life to the scene. Other works she has done are pictures of Petra through a fish eye lens, something which gives a great effect and isn't very common. Siham feels that in Jordan photography isn't an understood art form and that many Jordanian photographers don't exhibit their works for this reason.

The Star's GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
8 August -
14 August

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — Saturday Variety.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Film: Things Change. Starring Don Amiche and Joe Montagna. A strong friendship develops between a gangster and a simple shoe-shinner, who helps him escape a life sentence in jail.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings.
9:10 — Profits from Poison. A documentary focuses on the serious side-effects of toxic agricultural fertilizers.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Midnight Caller. Continuation of last week's episode.

MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.
9:00 — A Perfect Hero. Last episode.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Strauss family.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Mr. Bean.
9:30 — Tex.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Feature Film. "Scarlet Pimpernel." Starring Leslie Howard. An English nobleman's role during and after the French Revolution.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell.
9:00 — Wednesday Forum.
9:30 — Man of the people.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Stay the Night. Part one of a four part mini series. Starring Barbara Hershey and Joe Alexander. A true story about a married woman who drives a teenage boy to murder her husband.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:10 — NBA Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week:



Strauss Family on Monday 10:20. Johann Strauss Junior becomes a renowned composer in the Vienna music circles.

The World's Oldest Living Bride's Maid. A love story of a famous female lawyer and her male secretary.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Golden Girls.
9:10 — Root into Europe.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — EL CID. A new detective series starring Alfred Molina and John Bird.
10:20 — The Powers That Be. Starring John Forsythe and Holland Taylor. A new political comedy about senators, congressmen and their families.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Petites Histoires Presques Varieties.
6:10 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — La Gymnastique.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenetre Sur. A local program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.
5:50 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:10 — La Chance aux Chansons.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine, E-M6. A scientific magazine.

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Claire de Lune.
6:10 — Le monde sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The weekly sports magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Santé vision. A health program.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le Beaux moments du Cirque.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous. A variety and cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Documentary: Azimuts.

JEUDI

6:00 — Circus Partenaires. A documentary about the circus.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

VENREDI

5:30 — Documentary: Geoscope.
5:50 — Les Cles de Fort Boyard.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Play by the rules, or you could incur a penalty. The pressure will start to ease. Your energy level will be back up.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Pick a big objective and work toward it. Information will sink in. Relax with a friend.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): You should feel aggressive all week, but some days you'll be more effective than others.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): You will probably be able to get a lot done, if you don't argue with an older person.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): First, finish up your old projects. Get ready to start a new one. You'll be decisive and brilliantly creative.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): You should be a powerhouse, but watch out for leaks in security. A new procedure could threaten your peace of mind.

LIBRA (23 September - 23 October): Schedule your big challenges this week. Don't wait, make it happen. All week's good for love.

SCORPIO (24 October - 21 November): A secret deal could help you achieve a prize. You may have to give it back if you bend the rules.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Restrictions may keep you from doing what you want. You may have to hit the books!

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): You should have plenty of energy. It could start to fade, so watch and listen.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): One of your best times this year. Don't stop, but do be careful.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Stick close to what you know. Later, there could be major changes put into effect.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: The focus will be on hard work and education. Either your present job will demand more skills, or you'll pick a new career that fits you better. If you were born on the 10th, on the job training will be the best. 11th-13th, accept a technical challenge. 14-16, choose a vocation that utilizes your healing or horticultural talents.

TOP HITS

POP SINGLES

1. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
2. This used to be my playground, Madonna, Warner Bros.
3. I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia
4. Baby-Baby-Baby, TLC, Arista
5. Just Another Day, Jon Secada, SBK
6. November Rain, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
7. Wishing on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic
8. Under the Bridge, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros
9. Jam, Michael Jackson, Epic
10. Jump, Kris Kross, Columbia

VIDEO RENTALS

1. Star Trek VI, Leonard Nimoy, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
2. Buggy, Warren Beatty, Columbia TriStar Video (R-1991)
3. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
4. The Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
5. JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-1991)
6. Kuffs, Christian Slater, MCA/Universal Home Video (PG-1991)
7. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991) The Butcher's Wife, Demi Moore, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
8. Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, FoxVideo (PG-1991)
9. My Girl, Macaulay Culkin, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
10. Frankie and Johnny, Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)

Congratulations!



• Congratulations to Prince Mired Ra'd Bin Zeid and his bride Dina Mohammad Khalifeh who were married on Monday 20 July. Over 1000 friends and relatives including princes and princesses attended the wedding party which was held around the pool of King Hussein Sports City. After the wedding, His Majesty King Hussein gave a small family function for the couple. The newly weds have recently come back from their honeymoon which they spent in Europe.

Agenda

Exhibition:

• The British Council is presenting the Exploring Science Exhibition, a completely new type of exhibition that invites visitors to get their hands on the exhibits, thereby learning about science through exploration. The exhibition will be open to the public until 19 August from 10am to 8pm.

Lecture:

• The Muslim Women's Activity Group has organized a video lecture for Thursday 14 August. The lecture is titled "Muslims in America and Canada" and will be given at the Abdulla Azam Hall at the Islamic Hospital at 4:30.

